





1896  
Johns Hopkins University.

MAR 16 1896

LIBRARY

# THIRD REPORT

TO THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

**New York State Colonization Society,**

BY

O. F. COOK,

*Fulton Professor of Natural Sciences in Liberia College, and  
Agent of the Society.*

---

1896.

JOHN BINGHAM,  
STATIONER AND PRINTER,  
84 Wall St., N. Y.

JOHN'S HOPKINS  
LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY

CAGE  
E448  
.C78  
1896

# THIRD REPORT

## ERRATA.

Page	1	line	3,	for	"underbush,"	read	"underbrush".
"	1	"	18,	"	"indiginous,"	"	"indigenous."
"	1	"	22,	"	"vigilence,"	"	"vigilance."
"	7	"	9,	"	"climing,"	"	"climbing."
"	15	"	11,	"	"intermediate feature is all to common."		
					read,	"immediate future is all too common."	
"	27	"	36,	for	"foccussing,"	read	"focusing."
"	35	"	19,	"	"proof,"	"	"prove."
"	41	"	12,	"	"member,"	"	"number."
"	41	"	23,	"	"illy,"	"	"ill."
"	45	"	31,	"	"physicial,"	"	"physical."
"	49	"	5,	"	"govern,"	"	"government."
"	53	"	21,	"	"judgements,"	"	"judgments."
"	54	"	31,	"	"jus,"	"	"just,"
"	55	"	19,	"	"Africian,"	"	"African."
"	63	"	3,	"	"he,"	"	"the."
"	70	"	17,	"	"were,"	"	"where."
"	71	"	24,	"	"boistrous,"	"	"boisterous."
"	71	"	41,	"	"disdharging,"	"	"discharging."
"	73	"	2,	"	"intensions,"	"	"intentions."
"	73	"	40,	"	"adjoined,"	"	"adjoined."
"	74	"	26,	"	"improvable,"	"	"improbable."
"	74	"	30,	"	"auspices,"	"	"auspices."
"	94	"	5,	"	"oversigh,"	"	"oversight."
"	95	"	3,	"	"perserverance,"	"	"perseverance."

**Society,**

*legc, and*



# THIRD REPORT

TO THE

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

# New York State Colonization Society,

BY

O. F. COOK,

*Fulton Professor of Natural Sciences in Liberia College, and  
Agent of the Society.*

1874.

JOHN BINGHAM,  
STATIONER AND PRINTER,  
24 Wall St., N. Y.

---

*Additional copies of this Report can be obtained by  
any one interested in the subject, by applying to*

MR. CHARLES T. GEYER,

*Secretary &c.,*

*19 William St., New York, N. Y.*

---

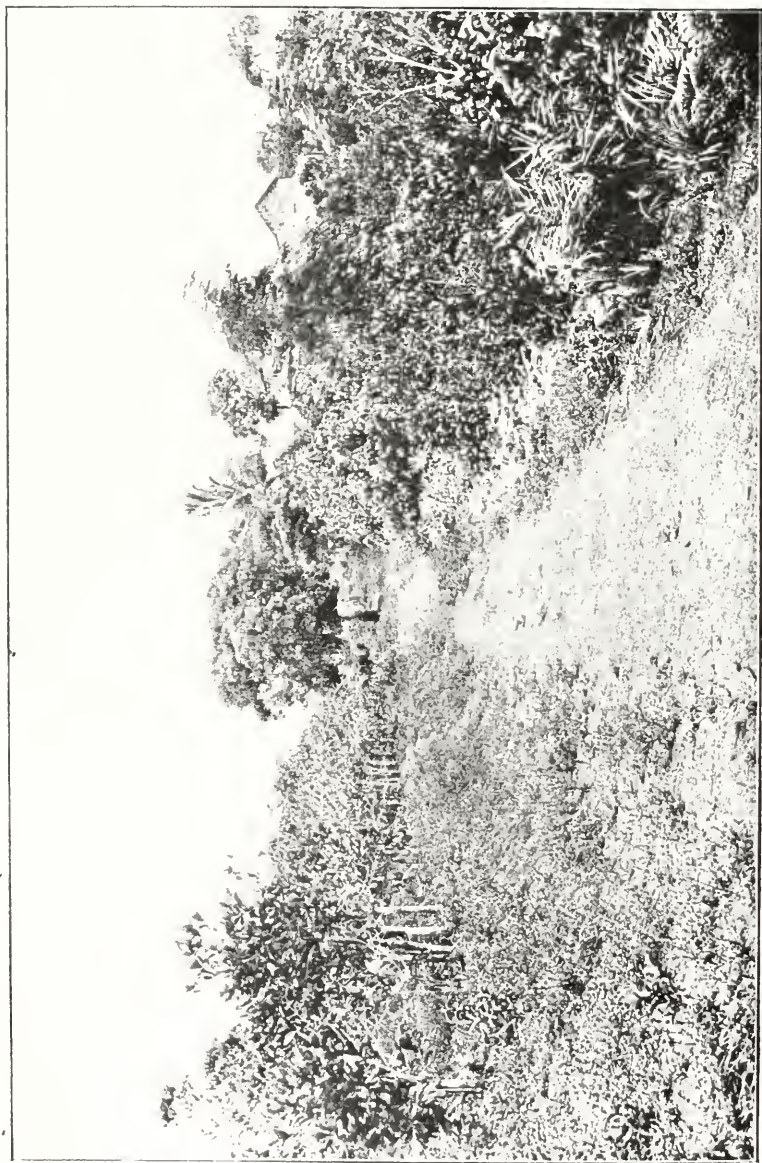


## PREFATORY NOTE.

The following pages comprise, in part, the "Third Report to the Board of Managers of The New York State Colonization Society," of Professor O. F. Cook and his associate Mr. Collins, concerning the present condition and needs of Liberia.

This Society long since gave up its adherence to any scheme of colonization, as such, and has latterly wholly confined its activities to such educational and practical questions as might in its judgment best subserve the higher interests of the youth of that Republic. There has always been, from some cause or other which it is not important further to refer to here, the utmost difficulty, amounting finally to an impossibility for this Society to obtain such trustworthy knowledge of Liberia, of the intimate personal characteristics of its population, either colonists or natives, educated or ignorant, or of its agricultural or mineral resources, or of its geography, or concerning its college or schools, as would be any guide whatever towards a satisfactory solution of the questions which this Society was at first organized to obtain, and if possible to solve such questions. They are difficult of solution from the inner conscience alone and are not to be solved without thorough knowledge. Such questions as, whether the negro race is capable of self-government; whether the Government has always been and is now under the control of the wisest, most patriotic and virtuous public officials; what are the school resources of the country; whether with the exercise of a proper ambition, industry and thrift such results would be effected as would profitably support a commercial connection with the country; whether the College at Monrovia is favorably located, efficiently managed, and cheerfully supported by its immediate beneficiaries, and finally, whether colonization can in the future be made a practical and beneficial success in the face of all its past management which to many minds has resulted in a substantial and discouraging failure. It was to furnish so far as possible, an answer to some of these questions by an educated and intelligent observer that this Society in 1861, first sent Prof. O. F. Cook and his associate, to Liberia to make such observations as were necessary for that purpose. Their replies so far as they have as yet been made are furnished in the series of Reports, of which the following is the "Third Report," which has been printed by the Society.

Prof. Cook has again sailed for Liberia, where together with Mr. Collins and Mr. Straub their scientific and practical work will be continued for another season.



*Road Through a Coffee Farm near Muhlenburg Mission.*

## LIBERIAN PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

The popular idea of a tropical country includes a landscape brilliant with flowers, trees filled with gay-colored birds, menageries of wild beasts in the underbush, the air populous with insects, and the ground covered with creeping things. Visitors to the tropics are, however, usually more or less disappointed in their expectations of such abundant life, and especially would this be the case in Liberia. One reason why so little animal life is apparent is that the whole country is covered with forest, so that comparatively few of the creatures which exist are seen, but in most of the natural orders individuals are not numerous. This is no doubt an advantage to the country, for among the groups which do not exist in abundance are some which elsewhere cause discomfort, sometimes to the extent of offering serious obstacles to progress. Thus in Liberia mosquitoes, flies, and snakes are much less abundant than in eastern North America. While many accounts of Liberia have been printed, few of them give a fair idea of what one may expect to experience in the way of personal comfort or annoyance from the indigenous plants and animals. Even friends of Liberia frequently refer to that country as though it were teeming with all manner of disagreeable things with which the inhabitants must do battle continually. There are, of course, annoyances, and vigilance is necessary, as everywhere else, but the conditions are by no means as bad as generally inferred, and are distinctly superior to those of most tropical and many temperate countries. As far as insects causing personal discomfort are concerned, Liberia is distinctly preferable to the United States in summer. One can go into the forest and remain as long as he pleases with no fear of mosquitoes, gnats, or flies. Following are a series of brief notes on the relative abundance of the more important groups of plants and animals; in some cases points of special interest or importance are indicated. It may be well to state in advance that in nearly all natural groups the number of species is much larger than in the same area in North America, even though the number of individuals may be

less for the group as a whole, with the result that there are many rare species. Thus if a local fauna in the United States consists of twenty species, half or more of these would probably be common. In Liberia there would probably be sixty species, of which four or five might be common, the rest rare.

To preserve good botanical specimens is usually very difficult in Liberia, as the atmosphere is so moist that the plants dry slowly, and so warm that a certain amount of decay supervenes to turn them black and frequently to partially disintegrate the tissues. It may thus be said that a satisfactory knowledge of the botany of the country will hardly be possible without a great quantity of field work. We made, however, as many specimens as practicable, and hope to get these determined by specialists in the different groups as soon as time and other duties permit. A considerable number of drawings, both of flowering plants and ferns were made, nearly all by Mrs. Cook, and these will serve as



*"Locust" Tree.*

a beginning in the work we hope to continue. With the books we took with us it was possible to determine a few of the wild plants, among which were the following :

*Berlina acuminata*, a shrub near the beach, but in the forest, especially along rivers, a fine large tree, in January and February covered with the peculiar white blossoms.

*Bryophyllum calycinum*, *Cassia alata*, common weeds in the streets of Monrovia, probably introduced.

*Combretum comosum*, a beautiful climbing vine, sometimes large trees or areas of thicket are completely covered by the deep red flower-bracts.

*Crotalaria retusa*, a road-side weed in Monrovia.

*Dissotis Afzelii*, *Dissotis plumosa*, in a waste place near the graveyard, Monrovia, January, 1894.

*Eugenia myrmecyloides*, *Eugenia owariensis*, both Monrovia, January, 1895.

*Haemanthus sp.*, very common at Monrovia. The blossoms appear from January to April, perhaps longer, but there are never any leaves with them.

*Heistria parvifolia*, common in the "bush" near Monrovia.

*Hippocratea macrophylla*, Monrovia, near the beach, March.

*Honckenya ficifolia*, a not uncommon weed about White Plains. "The fibre is said to be superior to jute in strength and worth from £12 to £20 a ton."

*Ixora laxiflora*, a fine shrub with loose clusters of delicate, fragrant flowers. Near the College, also near the beach, beyond the grave-yard.

*Mimosa pudica*, a not uncommon weed. On being touched the leaflets close and the pedicels and branches bend up.

*Morinda longiflora*, *Mussaenda Afzelii*, common trailing shrubs, climbing over the dense masses of other vegetation.

*Napoleona imperialis*, not uncommon near the beach. Fruits resembling pomegranates.

*Nymphaea stellata*, in pools and ditches near Monrovia. Flowers creamy white. On the outer face of the inner stamens near the base is a deep red blotch.

*Ouratea reticulata*, common about Monrovia, January.

*Parinarium macrophyllum*, a peculiar looking tree with somewhat



the habit of the apple, but with fruits much resembling potatoes. Waste sandy place near the coast.

*Ptychopetalum anceps*.

*Rhizophora racemosa*, the mangrove, composing almost the entire vegetation of the swamps. Sometimes nothing else can be seen for miles, as on the Mesurado River. The trees stand in the slimy mud uncovered by the retreating tides. They have frequently no proper trunk, but are indefinite straggling branches sending down long roots for support. These roots



*Mangrove Swamp.*

may start out anywhere, and continue to be sent down from the limbs, even when the mangrove grows up into a considerable tree. Sometimes the roots are as much as thirty feet long. They are of equal thickness all the way down, about half an inch in diameter. On reaching the level of the water the tip dies and the root branches at the end, usually into four, which penetrate the mud and anchor the tree fast. Pieces of these aerial roots are said to be used in the stems of meerschäum pipes. The supply is not likely to fail. The seeds of the mangrove do not drop off at maturity, or they would be carried away to sea by the retreating tides. They germinate on the trees, and send out a large fleshy radicle, several inches long, sharp-pointed at the end. This hangs pendant until its weight becomes too great, when it drops into the mud, its weight being sufficient to fix it firmly and prevent its floating away. It is also sure of being planted right end up, the shape being such as to cause it to fall straight.

*Ritchiea fragrans*, a scandent or trailing shrub in thickets at Monrovia. The greenish flowers suggest *Clematis virginiana*.

*Sarcocephalus esculentus*, a trailing vine, especially common along river-banks above the swamps. The yellow flowers are borne in a dense head. The compound fruit is sometimes eaten and is called "peach" by the Liberians. It has a not unpleasant acid flavor, but the texture does not recommend it.

*Sida carpinifolia*, *Sida cordifolia*, roadside weeds in Monrovia; both contain fibre, that of the former is said to be of value.

*Smeathmannia laevigata*, *Smeathmannia pubescens*, these two species are shrubs in the dense thickets near the beach to the south-west of Monrovia, but in the forest they become considerable trees, although they are given only as shrubs by Oliver.

*Tetracera alnifolia*, common in tangled thickets near Monrovia. All stages of buds, flowers and fruit occur at the same time on the same shrub. At maturity the outer coat of the seed bursts and displays the bright red, fleshy, lacinate arillus.

*Tetracera obtusata*, an extensive climber, common everywhere in the vicinity of Monrovia. The flowers and fruit are exceedingly similar in general appearance to *T. alnifolia*, but the scabrous leaves are much darker green than in that species.

*Urena lobata*, a road-side weed at Monrovia, said to contain a useful fibre. Here is a case of a plant which is protected by ants

for the sake of a secretion which is elaborated and exuded by a small gland at the base of the mid-vein.

The most characteristic features of the African landscape is the cotton-tree, *Eriodendron anfractuosum*. This grows enormously large, and the branches are sent out straight from the trunk in a manner that renders it distinct at once from all the other trees. The seeds are covered with a silky down, which has been exported from Sierra Leone for stuffing cushions. The seeds contain an oil and the bark a gum, but none of these are utilized in Liberia, as far as I was informed.



*St. Paul's River, Cotton Trees to the Left, Palm to the Right.*

Several plants contain rubber, but the trade has been abandoned for the last few years. Recently the factory of the Woermann Company is attempting to start business again by buying the juice and coagulating it by a chemical process. The cultivation of some of the rubber bearing plants is entirely possible, and is being



undertaken in some places. The main source of rubber in Liberia was a vine *Landolphia* (?) which has a habit of strangling the tree on which it grows by winding itself around repeatedly, and sending out numerous branches which coalesce with each other, thus forming an irregular grating, so to speak, over the trunk of the supporting tree. The vine is thus able to stand alone when the tree rots away, and may itself become a tree to all appearances. Among all the wild trees of Liberia are no representatives of the Coniferae, or ever-green trees of temperate regions.

Cacao flourishes in Liberia, but has been grown only in small quantities, and it is not an article of export, as it might easily become if the supply were larger. One difficulty with its culture is that it will not bear transplanting, and thus extra labor is required to keep the plantation clean so many years before bearing commences. Semler recommends planting the seed in small baskets which can be put in the ground with the contained plants, thus avoiding any disturbance of the roots.

The recent extension of the use of the kola-nut ought to make its cultivation profitable and plantations of it should be set out at once, as has indeed been done already in some parts of the coast. It grows luxuriantly in Liberia. I have never seen it on very high ground: it seems to thrive best along river-courses, but not in swampy or over-flowed places. The trees are said to reach full bearing after eight or ten years.

The cultivation of ginger is apparently increasing in Liberia. It is a crop to which the attention of emigrants should be directed, for while not as profitable as coffee, its cultivation is not difficult and it yields a return in a single year, and would thus assist the settler to bridge over the starvation period which frequently intervenes before his coffee begins to bear.

The oil palm occurs in all parts of Liberia, but is most abundant near the coast. In the region of Boporu, however, it was very common, much more so than about Arthington and Mt. Coffee. The price of palm oil in Europe has decreased greatly in the past decade, owing probably to the competition of cotton-seed. Not very much palm oil is now exported from Liberia, though large quantities are consumed in the country, palm oil being, after rice, the most important article of food. Care should be taken that so useful a tree does not become scarce. In some localities the

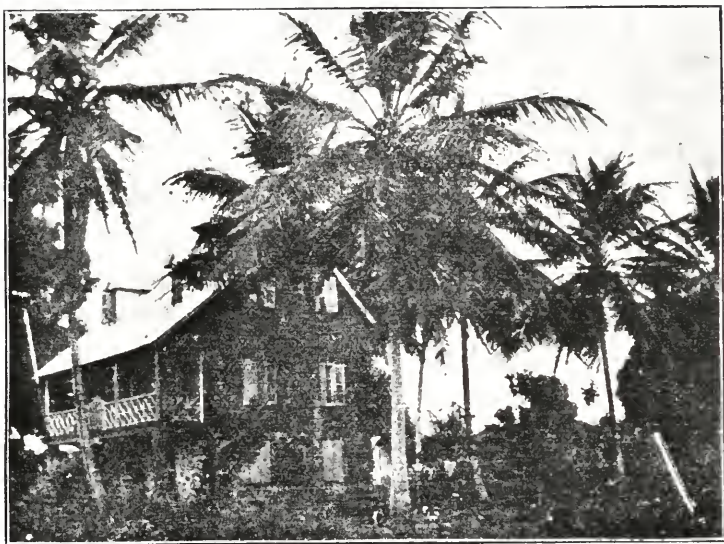
palms have all been cut down in seasons of famine after a native war, the crown being edible as "palm-cabbage." The oil palm requires absolutely no cultivation, and after the oil has been extracted from the nuts the kernels remain, which are still exported to Europe, where another kind of oil is extracted. It has been estimated that the profits from each grown tree should be from fifty cents to one dollar per annum, and at this rate a plantation would be very profitable.

Piassava, a coarse stiff fibre for making brushes is still exported from Liberia, although the price has gone down. The fibres are from the leaf-stems of the wine palm, *Raphia vinifera*, which grows in most places in nearly all parts of Liberia, and is usually known as bamboo. The seeds were last year purchased by the German factory and exported to be used in making buttons, as a substitute for vegetable ivory.

The banana grows wherever planted, and several varieties exist, the best of which is called "dwarf banana." This seems to be the same as that cultivated in the Canary Islands for the European market, but the flavor of the Liberian banana is greatly superior, and the texture of the fruit much finer. In Liberia this variety does not become yellow, being decidedly greenish, even when ripe. Notwithstanding the fact that bananas can be grown with no trouble except the planting, we found it difficult to get enough for our own consumption. It is no stretch of the imagination to say that enough bananas might be grown to feed every human being in Liberia, at the expenditure of a few days' effort on the part of each in the course of a year. It must be acknowledged that bananas cannot be made an exclusive article of diet, as is sometimes supposed, but at present they are almost as much of a luxury as in New York, instead of being so plentiful that nobody need starve. The banana also contains a fibre, but its extraction would not be profitable.

Cotton is cultivated in Liberia in small quantities, mostly by the natives, who weave it into a durable cloth prized by them above the exported article. The staple is short, and the crop would probably not be an advantageous one compared with coffee.

Cocoa-nut palms can be grown everywhere, and are very beautiful as well as useful. A large tree yields over one hundred nuts annually. A much larger number than are now produced in



*House and Cocoa-Palms, Monrovia.*

Liberia could be consumed there for food, so that trees ought to be extensively planted. Large plantations in which the fruits might be dried and the fibres extracted ought to be profitable. Palm-weevils exist in Liberia but I have never heard them spoken of as very destructive.

Very numerous wild fibre-plants exist in Liberia, some of which would no doubt prove valuable if they could be put on the market. At the same time, the true course of progress for Liberia is through agriculture, and not from natural products of which both the supply and the demand are precarious.

Pineapples are wild wherever I have been in Liberia, but the largest quantity is found in the vicinity of the coast. At Monrovia the regular price is three pineapples for two cents in the season of abundance. The fruits are not large, but are excellent in flavor and texture. The leaves of the pineapples also contain an excellent fibre, but no attempt is made to extract it.

Oranges of excellent quality are grown in Monrovia, though many of the trees are not of the best varieties, especially those in

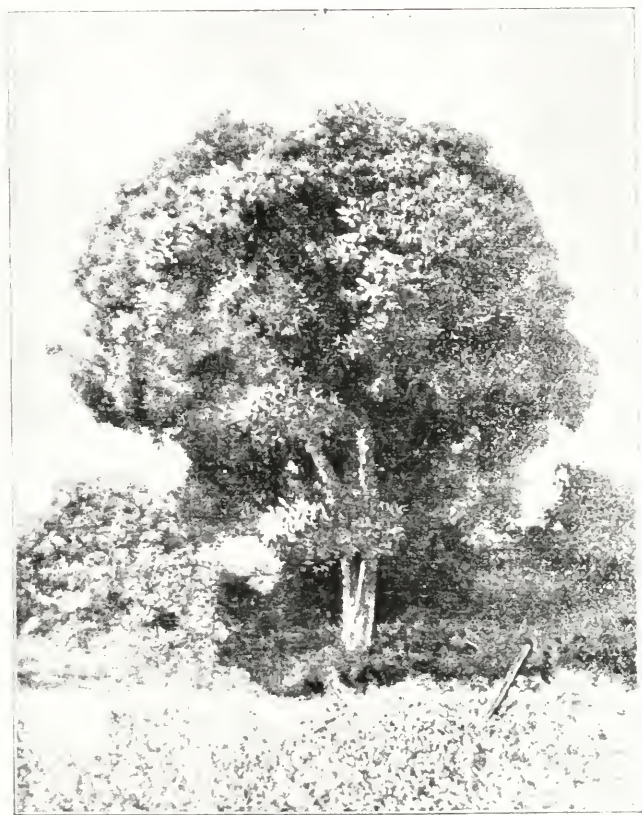
other parts of the country. The oranges grown among the natives remain quite green, and have much the internal texture, and somewhat the taste of the grape-fruit.

The bread-fruit tree grows well in Liberia, but in most localities it is much less common than it should be. Baked or roasted bread-fruit is in consistency between cotton, wool, and corn starch biscuit : when boiled it has about the consistency of turnips, with a mild and not unpleasant flavor. It is a mistake to suppose that bread-fruit would be acceptable as a constant or exclusive article of diet ; nevertheless it is far better than nothing and if it were more generally planted would in its season be a protection from



*Bread-Fruit Tree.*

want occasioned by the failure of other crops. The tree requires absolutely no cultivation, and grows with considerable rapidity. If the colonization agents had been sufficiently far-sighted to have planted bread-fruit trees a few years in advance of their settlements, much of the starvation, misery and death might have been avoided. The neglect of such comparatively simple expedients is the cause of many failures in Liberia. Even now, when all are acquainted with the value of the tree, the number in existence is entirely inadequate to even the present demand. It takes several years for the trees to come into bearing, and the tendency to consider only the intermediate feature is all too common. Its graceful form,



*Mango-Plum Tree.*



large glossy, deeply lobed leaves and slender branches render it strikingly beautiful.

The so-called "bread-nut" is a species closely resembling the other, and similarly used. Its fruits are smaller.

Limes are easily grown and supply the place of lemons. Many consider them preferable.

Mangoes, or as they are nearly always called, mango-plums are abundant and wholesome. Many varieties of these exist in other parts of the tropics, and in India great attention has been given to their cultivation. It would no doubt be possible to introduce other varieties which would extend the season at which this fruit might be had. At present two crops a year are matured, in May and November. The two sides of the same tree bear alternately, one resting through the dries, the other in the rains. As the skins of this fruit are flavored with turpentine a first trial is not sufficient to acquire a taste for them. Most people, however, soon become fond of them, and they are no doubt a very wholesome article of diet.

There are many kinds of small fruits, both native and introduced which thrive well in Liberia and might under proper cultivation and selection add to the ordinary bill of fare, which in spite of the possibilities, is often very limited.

Rice of many varieties is cultivated by the natives, but their methods are so crude and laborious that there is no profit in raising it as soon as the question of labor enters in. Indian rice can be imported from Liverpool or Hamburg more cheaply than the native rice can be raised by the employment of native labor. Could improved methods of agriculture be introduced this condition might be changed, and the money now sent out for the purchase of rice might be kept in the country.

Indian corn is grown, mostly by the natives, and in small quantity. It grows well, even too luxuriantly, and might succeed better if it were planted at the end of the rains instead of as now at the beginning. As a food it is used almost entirely in its green stage, the natives preferring rice as a staple diet.

Sugar cane grows luxuriantly, and the sugar industry was formerly profitable, when the competition of the American South was withdrawn during the war. Now, however, sugar unless

produced in large quantities is not a paying crop, although it would seem that enough could be profitably grown to supply the home demand, especially as there is a protective tariff.

Very many interesting and important agricultural experiments need to be made in Liberia, and in order to do this to the best advantage, continuous care and civilized surroundings and resources are necessary. Our experimental farm at Mt. Coffee is as



*House, Kitchen and Donkey at Mt. Coffee.*

yet little more than a clearing in the forest, though such a beginning was necessary and much time will be saved in progress of the work by not waiting longer to commence. Toward a hundred acres of forest have been cut down, several thousand coffee trees have been set out, and a small house built. Rev. F. E. Thompson is still with us and has oversight of the place in our absence. Located as it is under conditions common to a great area of country, any experiments carried on there would be more valuable than at Monrovia, where the proximity of the sea introduces a new element. With a road from White Plains which could be travelled by wagons and bicycles the settlement of many square miles of the neighbor-

ing territory could be made with comparative ease; a real advance would have been made toward the interior, and the construction of a railroad to Monrovia would be justified. Our experimental farm would then be where its utility would be greatest, at the centre of the largest and most compact settled region of Liberia—for Mt. Coffee is not distant either from Arthington or Careysburg. Of course if this experiment should succeed it could be repeated at other favorable points, for there may be other parts of the country quite as well adapted to settlement. One of the great mistakes of missionary work and colonization has been too great diffusion, and in the desire to be just to all claims and sections



*Golah Town near Mt. Coffee.*

the advantages have been so distributed and divided that they have had no appreciable effect anywhere. It is thus to be hoped that local interests in Liberia will not be allowed to stand in the way of improvement in any part of the country, for improvement anywhere is sure ultimately to benefit all, and if such an experiment as we have proposed were to be tried in a dozen places at once, it would succeed in none.

Continuing in the notice of the plants, we may report better success with the ferns. This group is a very small one, compared



with the flowering plants. From western Liberia we have between 60 and 70 species of ferns, and probably not many others remain to be discovered. Mrs. Cook has made drawings of all collected thus far and we hope to publish a complete paper as soon as satisfactory determinations of all the species can be made, which we hope to accomplish as soon as another visit to Berlin can be made. Some of the Liberian ferns are very beautiful, while a large part of the species would not be generally recognized as ferns at all, the leaves being large and entire. Many of the ferns never grow on the ground but are epiphytes, affecting the highest trees. One is thus unable to get specimens of some of the species except from fallen trees, but the annual farm-cutting of the natives gives a good opportunity.

Along creeks and rivers the bushes are sometimes completely



*Gleichenia Dichotoma.*

covered for several rods by a dense mass of a beautiful climbing fern, *Gleichenia dichotoma*. Its light pea-green color is peculiar, and its finely divided fronds are very graceful.

In the forest, especially along creeks, several species of *Acrostichum* are abundant. One of these is aquatic in habit, grows attached to stones in the beds of streams, and looks more like certain sea-weeds than it does like other ferns. Its texture is also delicate and transparent like an alga. Another species of *Acrostichum* (*A. sorbifolium*) has a climbing rootstock which sometimes ascends forty or fifty feet when it grows on large trees. It more usually, however, affects small saplings in the undergrowth, stunting or killing them by winding tightly about their upper part.

On large trees and on small ones near the ground the rootstock does not have the habit of twining.

In Monrovia stone walls are frequently overgrown with ferns of several species. One of the most curious of these is a *Polypodium* which is subject to great variation in the form of the fronds, some being entire and others deeply lobed, with all intervening gradations.

It might be suspected that mosses would be abundant in a moist region like Liberia, but this is not the case. The species are also comparatively few. This deficiency is supplied though by the luxuriance of the Hepaticae. In moist forest locations every twig may bear a rosette of *Plagiochila*. In coffee plantations the Hepaticae, especially species of *Lejeunea* are so abundant as to be a probable injury to the trees, for they cover them sometimes completely over the bark, and probably impede the discharge of its functions. It might be well to try the effect of spraying with Bordeaux mixture as for fungus diseases and lichens in the United States.

*Characeae* or stone-warts seem not to exist in Liberia, indeed with the exception of a very few *Liliaceae* there is hardly any aquatic vegetation in Liberia. I look in vain for *Marsilia* and other aquatic fern allies. Fresh-water algae are also rare.

Fungi are present especially in the rainy season, in bewildering abundance and variety. The fleshy *Agaricini* lead all the others in numbers of species, but leathery and woody *Polyporei* exist in multitudes. At first it seems as though one never sees the same species twice, but there are a few common forms. I made a

considerable collection of all the forms which could be preserved by drying, and brought them away in good condition for study by putting them in the sun every day so that they should not gather moisture, as they are sure to do if kept long in that climate. A knowledge of the more fleshy and perishable forms could only be gained by making a study of them in the field, with sketches and measurements. The subject is one of much importance for a large number of the species are said to be edible, and an enormous quantity of very nutritious food goes to waste in Liberia every rainy season. The natives are acquainted with some of the edible sorts, among which is a large form related to *Lactarius*. The pileus is nearly a foot across, and rises from a dense spherical mass of mycelium sometimes a foot in diameter. An edible agaric comes out in great abundance on deserted termite hills, and is probably the mature fruiting stage of the fungus mentioned later as being cultivated by the termites.

Parasitic fungi and lichens are both remarkably rare. The want of parasitic fungi seemed remarkable, for the climatic conditions are apparently exactly adapted to their most luxuriant growth. It may be that all the plants susceptible to fungous parasites have been killed off long since. The leaves of the flowering plants have a remarkable sameness in structure and shape. A very large proportion of them are elliptical in shape, acuminate, smooth and shining above; they are apparently well adapted to resist the attacks of fungi. The scarcity of lichens may possibly be due to the too great moisture, or to some condition not favorable to their algal hosts. It is also noteworthy that there should be a lichen abundant on the stunted bushes along the Leach where the spray is carried up continually. Lichens grow in such places, of course, in other parts of the world, but why this is the only situation favorable to their growth in Liberia is not clear. Puff-balls are almost unknown, and there are few Gasteromyces of any sort. Pyrenomycetes, or black fungi, are not uncommon, and I have brought back some remarkable forms. Myxomycetes or slime-moulds are not as common as in the United States at favorable seasons, but the species are in many cases the same, as might have been expected, for they are known to have a very wide distribution.

Of the larger animals of Liberia including birds and reptiles, Herr Büttikofer made a large collection for the Leyden Museum. The results of his work ought to be made available by being rearranged into a manual which would make accessible in English the knowledge gained by him. This may be included in a future report.

Large animals, while not scarce in Liberia, are seldom seen on account of the dense forests, as explained above. The chimpanzee probably exists in considerable numbers, but on account of its retiring disposition is seldom seen. Mr. Collins shot at one which had climbed a tree overlooking a native town. The natives hold them in much respect, and never hunt them. They are called by the natives "old time people", which shows that the idea of evolution is not new in Africa. The chimpanzee is supposed to possess great intelligence and many stories of his prowess exist. It is generally supposed that the chimpanzee is a strict vegetarian, but this is not the case, for it is not uncommon to find their tracks in springy places where land-crabs are abundant. The apes dig the crabs out of their burrows and crack them on stones, at least this is what the natives say, and I have seen satisfactory evidences of the fact. The chimpanzees are also said to crack nuts between stones, quite man-fashion. They are thought not to be subject to the fascination of the python, but are said to grasp the great snake by the neck and hammer its head with a stone.

Monkeys of several kinds, while not plentiful, are not rare, but they are very shy and seldom seen unless one is hunting. They are nearly always in companies, and some species never travel alone, but are always with others more alert in detecting danger. The Liberians and English-speaking natives called the chimpanzees "baboons," but the real baboon is probably not to be found. There is also a lemur equipped like a flying-squirrel.

Bats are numerous and of various sizes and species, some of which we have collected in alcohol.

Liberia being entirely a forest country, the lion is unknown, at least in the coast region. Leopards, while not common, must be reckoned with in attempting to keep domestic animals. They seldom or never attack human beings, and will run away if they meet a man accidentally. There are smaller species of Felidae

known as "bush-cats" which catch chickens and commit minor depredations.

The Liberian hedge-hog has strong bristles nearly a quarter of an inch thick and eight inches long, tapering to a sharp point at either end. In time of war the natives set the sharp points in the path to cover a retreat. The barefooted pursuers must walk very circumspectly or they will soon be lame. Sharpened sticks rendered brittle by being partially charred are used for the same purpose.

Rats and mice, especially the former are common, and of several species. They are considered good eating, and traps for rats are frequently set in the woods. They consist of a small frame-work of branches covered with a quantity of earth, under which the victim is crushed.

Elephants are still to be found in the interior in the sparsely populated districts. I saw recent evidences of them within fifty miles of Monrovia. Ivory is occasionally brought down the coast, but only a few tusks at a time.

There is an animal of considerable size which is called "bush-cow" by the natives and Liberians. This may be a buffalo, but in some cases at least the wart-hog seems to be indicated.

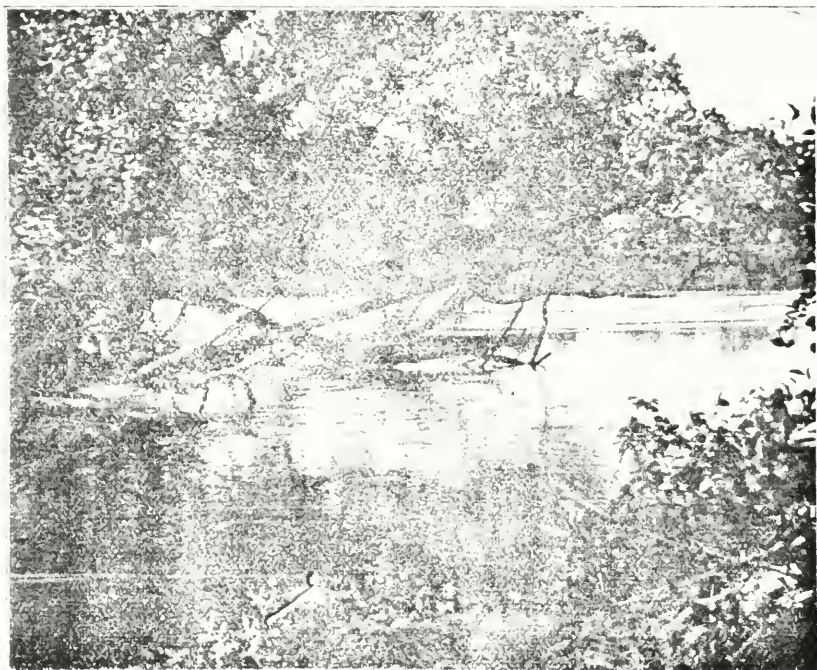
Native cattle thrive, and except the lack of care, there seems to be no good reason why cattle-raising might not be extensively carried on. There would be a good market for a considerable production, for the coast steamers now have difficulty in getting supplies of meat. Native cattle are of two breeds. A small, stocky, and very plump and sleek variety comes from the leeward counties; these animals are black, white or brown, usually parti colored, have short horns and are very pretty. The breed which is occasionally brought down from the Mandingoes of the interior is larger and with longer legs and horns and is light red in color. Both breeds seem well adapted to the country, nearly always appear healthy, and if they have sufficient grass become fat.

Sheep and goats are kept in small numbers. Both are covered with very short, straight hair, and look so much alike that one is at first at a loss to tell them apart. The most salient difference seems to be that the tail of the sheep is pendant while that of the goat is worn perpendicularly.



Several species of antelopes and gazelles are hunted, sometimes with success, though they do not form large flocks, and there is nothing like the abundance of such animals as has been described in other parts of the continent.

The hippopotamus was formerly abundant, but is now confined to the upper reaches of the rivers, occasional individuals descending to civilization where they are killed. In the river at



*St. Paul's River. View from Farm.*

Mt. Coffee there has been a family of three or four, for the past year or two. They are not hunted by the natives and are rather tame. Along the banks of the river are frequent deep worn paths where the unwieldy beasts climb out to feed at night.

The native horses of the interior are a stocky, strong breed and could be utilized in the coast region if properly fed and watered. They cannot however make a living browsing trees and bushes,

and are said to suffer from internal parasites if allowed to drink the stagnant water of the coast region. However, as the prosperity of the country depends almost entirely on an improvement of means of transportation, a careful and sustained attempt should be made to render practical the use of horses. This would probably do more to assist colonization and the settlement of the interior than anything which could be undertaken, with the possible exception of the construction of a railroad.

The African Manatee is still occasionally found in the rivers. Last year I saw a specimen which had been caught in a fishnet. On the ground it seemed to be perfectly helpless.

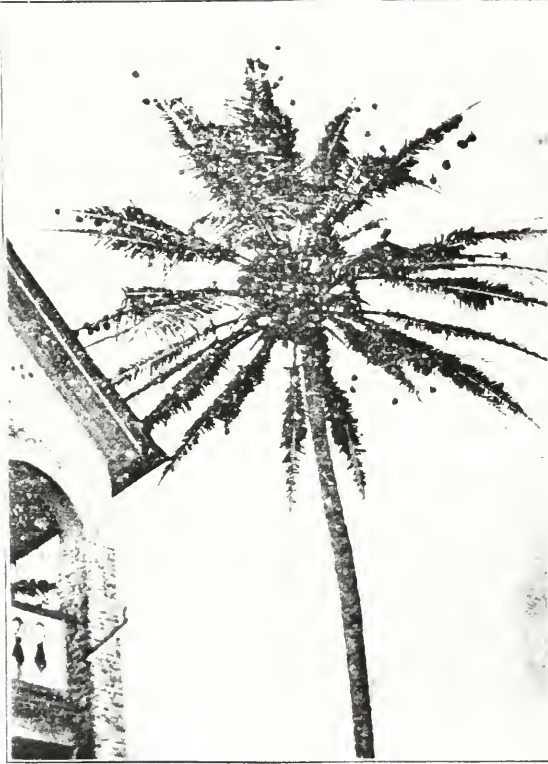
The pangolin or ant-eater is occasionally caught and eaten. It is a very curious creature two or three feet long covered with large, square, over-lapping scales, the head small and pointed, and the tongue very long and slender. The feet are adapted for digging into the nests of ants and termites. As soon as a hole has been made the long tongue is thrust in and moved slowly about. The angry insects bite fast to it and the ant-eater thus draws out his struggling meal.

At Bathurst and at Sierra Leone vultures are common and are protected by law as scavengers, but there are none at Monrovia. Native hawks and eagles are not uncommon, and chickens are sometimes carried off as in the United States.

Cocoa-nut palms are sometimes entirely killed by a social bird which strips the leaves entirely off for the sake of the fibres which are used in weaving nests, sometimes the nests are hung on the palm-tree itself, as in the accompanying photograph, in which the palm looks as though it were loaded with a strange kind of fruit.

Swallows are common along the river, and king-fishes are occasionally seen; the most common species is blue of several shades with a vermillion bill. There is a small gregarious finch, but small birds as a whole appear much more rare than in the eastern United States, many always remaining hidden in the dense vegetation. There are several song-birds, which usually perform at about five o'clock in the morning. There are also several birds which make peculiar, sometimes hideous, noises. The Golah word for early morning is an imitation of the sound made by a bird just before day-break.

There is but one species of parrot, the common Guinea species, gray with a red tail. These congregate in flocks and are sometimes very clamorous. Among the English speaking natives the word parrot is never heard, the name Polly having become a common noun. These parrots build nests in holes of high trees. They must be much more common further down the coast than in



*Cocoa Palm, with Birds' Nest.*

Liberia, for large quantities are brought up, especially on the German steamers. Game-birds are not common, wild pigeons are occasionally shot.

Turtles are not uncommon, and there are several kinds, marine, fresh water and land; the latter feed largely on fungi. Crocodiles



were formerly not rare but are now seldom seen in the vicinity of Monrovia and the St. Paul's River. It appears improbable that they were ever very numerous, because the area of fresh-water swamps is very small. I have never heard them reported as abundant in any part of Liberia. Lizards are very common and of several species, but as they are entirely harmless and eat only insects, they are beneficial, rather than otherwise. They sometimes come into houses and disturb nervous strangers. Some of them are very pretty, and all are exceedingly agile in climbing about the walls and ceilings. A lizard sometimes four feet long and beautifully marked with black and yellow is called "Iguma", but in reality belongs to a distinct sub order. It seems to be *Monitor niloticus*, said in Egypt to eat the eggs of the crocodile.

At least one true chameleon is found in Liberia. It is usually some shade or shades of green, and lives in trees. If captured and removed from a green back ground the color may be changed to gray. The local name for this creature is "turn-coat," and while perfectly harmless, it is intensely feared by most Liberians and many natives. I have had them brought to me between two sticks. The chameleon is certainly one of the most uncanny creatures in existence. Its long slender tail is tightly curled under in a very regular spiral. The digits of its feet are grown together in bundles so that it appears that there are but two toes, and these grasp the twigs like forceps. Only the most deliberate movements are indulged in : each foot is raised with the utmost caution : and as cautiously set down. Thus the insects on which the chameleon feeds are not frightened till they find themselves glued to the great club-shaped tongue. The most remarkable features, though, are the eyes. They are set in large sockets, and are covered, except the central aperture, with a flexible skin, by which the aperture is alternately contracted and expanded until the creature gets just the right focus on you, when you expect that he must be taking a photograph for some diabolic purpose. To add to the sinister effect, the two eyes are entirely independent of each other, so that while with one eye he is watching an insect you are trying to feed him, with the other he is focussing on you.

Snakes are much scarcer than in eastern North America. I have been in the woods a large part of the time spent in Liberia, but have seen only three or four snakes. We were able to make a

collection of about twenty, mostly brought to us by the natives, and mostly small and harmless. There are two or three poisonous species, but these are rare, and are moreover sluggish, so that they never attack, but will bite if stepped on, though cases of snake-bite are of rare occurrence. I heard of only one, and that was not fatal. I was very anxious to see one of the pythons, said to be sometimes twenty feet in length, but I never saw one, large or small. These are however, not dangerous to human beings, at least I never heard of any such case. Frogs and toads are much scarcer than in America, and the number of species seems not to be greater. The tree-frogs are sometimes noisy.

Fish are very abundant, especially the marine, and of many species. The importation of salt fish from Europe is certainly unnecessary when the sea would furnish more than enough if they were caught and preserved for sending inland. All through the dry season Monrovia is supplied almost daily with excellent fresh fish, which form by far the largest part of the available meat diet. In the rivers fish are caught largely by traps, which are small enclosures built along the bank. They are usually made of the leaf stems of a species of palm, in Liberia called bamboo. A door is left which the fish causes to drop when he seizes the bait, or the door is dropped at high tide by the release of a string from the shore. Some of the river fish have an unusually fine flavor. I have never eaten better.

Land snails are not especially abundant, though there are two large species prized by the natives for food. One of these is sometimes of over six inches long and between three and four inches thick. It seems very remarkable to see such a giant snail crawling about in the woods. There are very few bivalve molluscs except oysters, which are abundant in the brackish waters of the mangrove swamps, encrusting the branches and roots, even above the low-water mark. These oysters, however, are seldom large enough for use, and those I tried were hardly up to the American standard of excellence.

Wild bees are occasionally found, and sometimes a considerable quantity of honey is secured, which the bees have provided against the rainy season. The honey is very dark, and of a decided, though not unpleasant flavor.

Wasps are not as common as with us, and seldom cause trouble.

Some build clay nests plastered to trees or the walls of houses, filling the chambers with spiders which they have paralyzed by stinging. The spiders are thus preserved from putrefaction until the egg of the wasp, which is laid in the cell with them can hatch out and eat them up. By breaking open the nests of these wasps I secured many rare spiders, or at least spiders which I had never been able to find myself. The number of spiders in each cell is not a regular one as is said to be the case in certain European wasps. The cell is always well-filled. If the spiders are small a larger number of individuals is supplied.

The ants are of all insects the most numerous in individuals, and the number of individuals is very great. The ants are about the only things in the way of insects which cause personal annoyance in Liberia, though this is very seldom and slight, unless one is so incautious as to encounter the "drivers" or nests of stinging ants. Both these contingencies are unnecessary, and I cannot claim to have suffered any trouble worth speaking of. Ants are, however, everywhere present, and are sure to attack any edible substance which they can reach. It is thus necessary to stand the legs of cup-boards in dishes of water or to have them suspended from above with precautions against the passage of the ants down the support. One species is so small as to be hardly visible, but its small size enables it to go everywhere, and find whatever can be eaten. I have sometimes found a whole community of ants, including the larvae established in a single night between the sheets of paper in which plants were drying. Certain red ants which sting make nests in trees, and in coffee-trees this occasionally makes trouble, for as soon as one attempts to pick the coffee the ants drop off and commence to sting the intruder. In large plantations it might be worth while to go through just before the coffee-harvest and spray the ant-infested trees with kerosene emulsion or some other insecticide.

The most remarkable ants, however, are the so-called "drivers". There are several species with similar habits, but the drivers proper are black ants about a centimetre long. They are always going somewhere, and seem to have no settled habitation. The larvae and pupae are carried along, roughly dragged over the ground. The military idea appears to be completely predominant. The "drivers" have carried military art to its last development, and are so thor-

oughly organized that in spite of their small size they fear *no* foes. In marching order the army is about three centimetres wide, but in foraging or in threatened danger it spreads evenly over the ground and anything that comes in its way is attacked, no matter how big. The ants are of two forms, conspicuously different. The workers are of ordinary form, not conspicuously different from the large black ants in the United States, but the soldiers have their heads and jaws enormously enlarged, exceeding in size the remainder of the animal. Both the workers and the soldiers, however, are fierce in the extreme. Having once fastened themselves into the skin of an animal they do not let go; if their bodies are pulled apart, their heads remain attached as firmly as ever, and it is necessary to tear the mandibles out of the flesh. The pain of an attack by drivers is so great that animals roll themselves on the ground in their rage, thus gathering more ants into their fur, and animals of considerable size are said to be killed by the drivers, of course if the animal is injured or otherwise prevented from escape, there could be only one conclusion to the matter—it would be carried off in infinitesimal pieces. Thus the drivers are effective scavengers, and probably the comparative rarity of flies is due to this fact. But the ants are more than scavengers, they destroy vermin of every sort. When an army of drivers is out foraging and encounters a house, every square inch of surface is investigated, every cockroach dragged out, every spider, every mouse or rat. These latter I saw run out of their holes in open day light and roll themselves on the ground instead of attempting to run away. The natives then robbed the ants of their plunder, and roasted the rodents for themselves. An army of ants coming out of a house is a very curious sight. Grains of rice, crumbs of food, small insects of many sorts, and large cockroaches disarticulated and carried in sections. Even the wings of the cockroaches are carried away, waving in the air like banners. In half an hour a native house will be relieved of every living thing, and all the drivers will be gone. With an unfailing instinct they keep together perfectly, and while a large area may be covered by a foraging, every ant is withdrawn when the march is resumed. The extreme form of torture among the natives is said to be to tie a criminal and put him in the way of an army of drivers. The scarcity of snakes should perhaps be put to the credit of the drivers. Snakes being

torpid after a meal may not be able to escape, and would then surely be eaten up. Indeed, the natives declare that the python, after killing an antelope makes a circuit of the whole vicinity and if drivers are found in too close proximity the prey is abandoned.

Possibly another blessing to be ascribed to the ants is the freedom from fleas. The larvae of these annoying creatures inhabit the cracks and crevices of houses. In Liberia all such places are continuously inspected by ants of one sort or another, and the larvae of the fleas would doubtless be eaten if found. In order to avoid the visitation of drivers and other undesirable creatures, an area around the houses is kept clean of everything, not even grass being allowed to grow. If one encounters a marching army of drivers it is perfectly easy to step across, as over a stick lying across the path. If, however, the army is spread out, or is following the path, it is sometimes necessary to run through them as quickly as possible, careful examination being then made to see whether the clothes are entirely free from ants. Fortunately the bites of drivers, while distinctly painful do not cause subsequent irritation, for they are not poisoned, their stings not being included in the fighting outfit. Last year a rather small ant organized on the driver's plan invaded our quarters in Monrovia. The army entered through a small hole in the corner of the room just above the wainscoting. As a possible deterrant I put a piece of cyanide of potassium just in front of this hole. This was vigorously attacked, the ants being killed in great numbers, so that the wainscoting was strewn with hundreds of bodies. In the night, however, the army retreated, taking all the dead with it.

Beetles exist in great variety, but are much less abundant than with us in summer. Some are very brilliantly colored, but few of these are common. A large snout beetle attacks palm-trees, but seems not to be very common. Tiger-beetles are about as common as the American, which they much resemble. Carabidae are rare, especially the larger forms. Stag beetles seem not to be as numerous in species as on the east coast, to judge from the great work of Peters. The longicorn beetles are mostly brilliant blue or green, and fly about in the forest alighting on leaves like dragon-flies.

Butterflies are abundant in May and June, but are not numerous at other times, and the destruction of plants by caterpillars I have

never observed. Probably the abundance and ferocity of the ants account for this, and for the general scarcity of other insect life. As stated above flies and mosquitoes are rare, the flies because the ants are such thorough scavengers, the mosquitoes because there is very little standing water in which they can breed. I have never seen mosquitoes at all numerous, although a few may sometimes prevent sleep, so that mosquito curtains are sometimes used, though they are much more necessary in such health and pleasure resorts as the Canary Islands. There is a large fly in the mangrove region which bites very savagely, but is fortunately scarce, and is seldom met with except on the water. Last year Mr. Collins reported that a certain rather small fly was very abundant at Mt. Coffee for about two weeks. With this exception we have never seen flies troublesome, in fact one seldom sees more than solitary individuals. This is really an important matter, for the plagues of flies in some countries are such as to materially decrease the pleasure of existence.

Of Hemiptera (bugs) there are great numbers of species, but individuals are again not plenty enough to cause loss or annoyance. Many cases exist where the ants keep plant-lice and allied insects on certain plants. The ants then protect the plants and the plant-lice, which serve as cows, elaborating certain nutritious substances of which the ants are very fond. In some cases the ants build shelters over their domestic animals, to protect them from the sun or the attacks of other animals. Plant-lice and allied insects unattended by ants are rare.

Dragon-flies and allied insects are numerous. As their larvae stages live in water they are out of reach of the ants. Some are brilliantly colored, but in general they are very similar to the American insects of this group.

Another group which exists in great abundance, and is perhaps of more importance than any other is the termites or white ants, in Liberia known as "bug-a-bugs." They will consume almost anything in the way of wood or vegetable tissue, and are very destructive to wooden buildings, furniture, and books, especially if the houses are unused. Houses are commonly raised on stone and brick foundations sometimes in the form of pillars which are kept whitewashed. The termites are unable to bear exposure to the open air or sunlight, and are able to climb trees and pillars

only by constructing a tunnel of mud to protect them. These are about a quarter of an inch wide, and as it takes some time to build them, watchfulness might keep the termites from reaching the house. There are, however, other species which are able to take up continuous residence even in dry wood, and which will sometimes eat the inside out of a door or a chair without offering any outside traces of destruction. However, if care is taken in building and painting, and a reasonable amount of watchfulness is maintained afterward, wood houses last for many years. There are also certain varieties of native woods which the termites are unable to attack. Even old residents of the tropics sometimes suppose that the termites are all of one kind. They are, however, of numerous species and genera, with distinct structure and habits. Those which build the large hills are distinct from those which live continuously in furniture and walls. The hills are clay specially elaborated by the workers, for the termites have several kinds in the same community, structurally differentiated for different functions. Thus most species of termites, besides the males and females have workers and soldiers, and sometimes still other forms, as in the true ants. In the case of the termites constructing the large hills, the queen becomes enormously enlarged, four or five inches in length, and is then entirely incapable of movement and is fed by her attendants, her sole function being to lay eggs, in which she is very successful. She is accommodated in a special chamber with only narrow entrances, and these are guarded by soldiers. As an additional defense these passages are filled with earth when the nest is attacked, so that the royal chamber is entirely closed. In addition to the numerous passages of such a termite hill, there are large chambers filled with a honey-combed punky substance, over the whole surface of which a minute fungus is always growing. On this fungus the young feed, and I suspect it also forms the food of the queen, for her transparent body never shows any trace of a dark substance inside as does that of the workers, which eat wood. Shortly after I discovered this condition an account of a similar cultivation of fungi by certain South American ants was published, but I am not aware that termites have been known to provide themselves with a fungus diet. These large termite hills form a characteristic feature of the African landscape, wherever there is no forest. An even more



peculiar though smaller nest is constructed by a forest species. It is somewhat club-shaped, or umbrella like, having a very small base, and being continually enlarged above. It is built in stories,



*Termite Hill.*

and is not rapidly constructed. The top is always evenly rounded, and the edges of the top story are continued down at intervals into pendant cornices, like icicles, which conduct the water away from the lower stories. The substance of which these nests are built is elaborated by the termites. It is composed of clay and vegetable matter and is very hard and tough, so that although the base of a nest at the ground may be only three or four inches in



diameter, considerable force is necessary to break away the nest. The interior of such nest is filled with very numerous small passages. I have never been able to find a queen or special chamber for one. Other species of termites build nests in trees, or in the ground. As has been pointed out by Drummond in his description of south-eastern Africa, the termites replace the earth-worms of northern climates in their beneficial effect on the soil resulting from its elaboration into nests and tunnels, bringing the subsoil up to the surface. Ex-President Johnson, of Liberia, in a recent important article on coffee culture recommends the use of the termite hills as a fertilizer. Earth-worms are not absent in Liberia, but their activity is little compared with that of the termites. These last, while without doubt the most troublesome and destructive of insect enemies in that country, are yet probably to be looked upon as on the whole beneficial. Methods of building will have to be developed, with reference to their existence, and a more thorough knowledge of their habits may result in more successful protection against their ravages, which have after all, been greatly exaggerated, and need not prove a serious hindrance to individual or national prosperity.

Grass-hoppers and all their relatives are well represented in Liberia, and are sometimes destructive to crops, but as they come only in the dry season when the rice is not planted the damage caused is never very great. In February of last year there appeared one morning at Mt. Coffee immense clouds of large brown grass-hoppers flying north, and descending in myriads to feed. The paths were so full of them that walking was difficult and an umbrella necessary. This too assisted in frightening them far enough ahead so that I could walk without so many coming against me. They ate up every particle of green grass in the open places where the sun shone, but did not operate in the shade. None alighted in the river, few or none in the forest. They seemed to select from the air the open places where grass was growing. The flight continued all day, but in decreasing numbers, until at night all but a few stragglers had gone on. They seemed to have descended upon us merely for a meal. The natives welcomed them and caught them in large numbers in their fish-nets and roasted them for food. Such visitations are said to be very rare. The appearance at first was exactly that of

a vigorous snow storm, too realistic when grass-hoppers three inches long began to alight all about. In some coffee farms all the grass was eaten so that so much labor was saved.

Thysanura are abundant in individuals and species, but nearly all live in the forest and would not be seen unless one were collecting insects.

Millipedes or thousand-legged worms are not as common as in most of the Eastern States, but the species are several times as numerous, and some are very large, up to eight inches long, and half an inch thick. I once heard them described as animated lead pencils. Of the Liberian species nearly all are new to science; nearly all the genera are also new, as well as several families. A part of these have been published in papers now printing in the proceedings of the United States National Museum, the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, and the American Naturalist. It was possible to proceed with a study of these forms at once on account of the possession of a large part of the literature of the subject. All the animals of this group are harmless, notwithstanding the general opinion to the contrary, even among the African natives.

Centipedes are rare in Liberia, which can hardly be said of most tropical countries. We collected all we could, but were able to get only a few. These are probably mostly introduced, as they are found in the vicinity of houses, very rarely in the forest. A slender animal of this group is found in houses and probably feeds on the termites which consume the woodwork and casings. When it crawls over the floor in the dark it leaves behind a trail of brilliant phosphorescent light, which causes some citizens to be very much afraid of it. In reality the creature is perfectly harmless. The light is emitted by a secretion by minute glands opening in great numbers on the under side of the body. What its use may be is hard to conjecture as the animal is perfectly blind. The species is in all probability that described by Linnaeus as *Geophilus phosphoreus*, and said by him to have fallen on the deck of a ship in the Indian Ocean a long distance from land. I had a living specimen given to me which had just been picked up on the deck of an English steamer off Sierra Leone. It had probably escaped from some of the cargo. The habits of the animal are such that it might be expected to live

among goods stored for shipment. It is now known from nearly all tropical countries, and has probably been spread by shipping. In Liberia we never found it in the forest, only in houses, so that it is not a native. Its home is probably in the East Indies.

Scorpions are hardly more common than centipedes. There is a small speckled species living in houses and probably introduced. The sting of this is hardly more serious than that of a wasp, though popularly supposed to be fatal. There is a very large scorpion which lives in the forest in deserted burrows or termite nests. It is dark green in color, about six inches long, has large claws like a crab, and a long tail armed with a powerful sting, in all a formidable creature. However, it is very rare, and we were able to secure only two specimens.

Spiders and harvest-men are about as numerous as with us, but of much greater variety of forms. The natives have names for several different spiders, showing that their knowledge of nature is more minute than that of the generality of civilized people. Large juicy spiders are considered a luxury by some tribes. Bird-spiders live in holes in trees and pounce upon their prey. The natives hold these in considerable respect, for if annoyed the spider is said to jump out and defend himself by biting. These large spiders are also very rare. We could get but one.

Crabs are quite abundant, and live in all sorts of places from the sea to dry hillsides. Some of the land-crabs make large burrows in low places near the sea, the excavated earth being piled up into a mound used as a tower of observation. These crabs are sometimes brilliantly colored in red and blue. As soon as danger approaches they retreat into their burrows. In the dry season the burrows are closed at the top with a mud roof constructed from below and arched underneath by being pressed and smoothed by the animal's claws. On the sand along the sea beach crabs are very numerous, all light colored and finely speckled to look exactly like the sand. It thus happens that in the sunlight the shadow is much more conspicuous than the animal, so that the effect is that of a crowd of small phantoms hastening into the sea, as they all do on approach. Shrimps are sometimes caught in quantities and sold for food.

## A MISSIONARY SLAVE TRADE.

The multiplicity of present efforts for the suppression of the African Slave-trade, and the fact that missionary appeals for men and money are frequently strengthened by revolting accounts of the traffic, will probably render it a matter of surprise to some to learn that here on the West Coast, children are purchased to supply the mission school with pupils.

This is not however, news to all—the writer remembers reading in an American newspaper some years since, that an agent of Bishop Taylor of the Methodist Episcopal Church had sworn before a Chicago court, that the proceeds of a certain bequest under litigation would be used by the Bishop to buy small native girls in Africa at eighteen dollars apiece. In the Bishop's organ, "The African News," such transactions in Africa are frequently referred to under the term "redeeming."

To study the motive which prompts this method of propagating Christianity is not necessary; to call attention to some of the incidental results of the method may be useful, if the missionary public in the United States will consider the matter before the European governments begin to send in protests.

The only apparent reason why this department of the slave-trade has not assumed proportions sufficient to attract general attention, has been the lack of funds in the hands of the would-be buyers. There is every probability that if only the good work goes on far enough, we shall have regulation slave-raids, towns burned, the people slaughtered, and the children carried away to satisfy the "demand."

To be fair, however, it must be confessed that purchase is the *quickest* way to start a mission school. Let us observe a typical case. A missionary comes out to Africa with the idea that the heathen are in a state of hunger and thirst after righteousness. He (or more often, she) finds that the heathen are in no such state of mind. It does not take long for the general conclusion to be drawn that the mature natives are a perverse generation, and the need of working along educational lines is realized. If a half-civilized native is asked to allow his child the advantage of going to school his probable reply will be "how much you gimme, I let my pickaniny learn book," and the missionary is face to face with

the fact that public sentiment in Africa expects pay for accepting education and Christianity.

The missionaries are themselves to blame for the existence of this unfortunate fact which increases many times the already enormous



*Native King at the Gate of his Town.*

difficulties of doing really successful work in Africa. Too often the missionary's foolish haste to get the good will of the people has led him to buy it with presents. He gets a temporary semblance of what he desires and loses the possibility of obtaining what is in-

finitely more important to his work, the natives' respect and confidence.

Buying children is a part of the system. The missionary soon finds that he could work to better advantage by having children who can be expected to stay continuously and thus have the opportunity of prolonged training. Children are cheap—he will redeem them from barbarism, train them for usefulness among their own people, etc., etc.

In the interior of Liberia boys twelve and fourteen years old were offered me for goods of a cash value of about three dollars. Girls come at about twice the price, so that the good Bishop was buying in a rather dear market. These children were, of course, slave children.

When it comes to buying free children of their parents the price may exceed the figures mentioned. It is understood that one of the Bishop's missionaries went as high as ninety dollars apiece for four "princesses" but these were a fancy article and demanded a corresponding price. As a usual thing, however, the buyers are not sufficiently acquainted with the people and their ways to escape; being imposed upon by dealers and pay three or four times the current domestic prices. This makes the missionary trade especially profitable and almost any one will go into the business if he can get orders to fill. Only the other day the news reached the country that a new missionary was coming to reopen a "Seminary". Shortly after a person approached one of the resident missionaries with a proposal to furnish the institution with "students." The suggestion that the gentleman expected might prefer not to buy his pupils was met with the confident declaration that that would be the only way he could get any.

It is not to be supposed that the above facts are applicable to all the missionaries of the coast or even to a majority of them. Those who have the steadfastness and patience to wait until they can become acquainted with the people and win their confidence have afterward no difficulty in getting material to work upon. This is written in the house of an independent missionary who has labored fifteen years among the natives of the neighboring Kroo-town. She has had no need to buy children for her school, in fact, turns some away almost daily, her greatest difficulty being to keep the number within the limit of the support she is able to give them with



the aid of desultory remittances from the United States, and the limit of her unassisted personal strength for teaching and attending to their endless physical needs. The parents of many of the children even occasionally contribute a little in the way of food; not enough to be a material assistance, but enough to show that they realize on which side the obligation is.

Children are bought when zeal over-balances discretion and the missionary does not wait to think that, apart from other considerations, having once begun buying, he will be expected to continue. Perhaps some board or society has great expectations which he is anxious to justify, or he must make a report and show a goodly member in his school. Persons who would not be trusted with children no matter how long they might stay in the country, buy enough to make a report on and thus deceive themselves and their friends at home with the idea that they are doing "a work."

But what becomes of these children after they are bought? They are as a rule at the mercy of the vicissitudes and temper of the missionary, and not in the charge of some permanent and well-organized institution. Beyond the missionary who bought them, no one feels any special responsibility. The missionary may die or return home within a very few years or months; indeed, one of these alternatives is, in this climate, an early probability, and the child now unused and illy adapted to returning to native life, but without hold on the civilized, is in a truly pitiable state. It would seem that a realization of the precarious tenure of life and health would have a sobering influence on the assumption of such enduring responsibilities. Even now one of the Bishop's missionaries with a collection of some ten little girls is making ready to take them off to Angola to "educate" them there, though all public schools must be taught in the Portuguese language not used in Liberia. This idea of carrying to a Portuguese colony so many of Liberia's rising generation is creating comment, and there is even talk of interference on the part of the government. The children were not bought to be taken to Angola, but the missionary finds it necessary to go and what is to be done with the children? "Missionary spirit" will not permit of their being returned to their parents; no one here is prepared to take charge of them: if the government should not permit taking them

to Angola, what would become of them? A "Missionary problem," indeed.

Slavery is an African institution; it exists in all parts of the continent and will exist until the whole race is civilized. The opinions and laws of an outside world have no possible effect upon it. The state of slaves among the African tribes is not however, so much worse than that of other grades of savage society. The slave is shut out from no important privileges enjoyed by his master, indeed, it is difficult for a stranger to tell which is slave



*Native King with his Wives.*

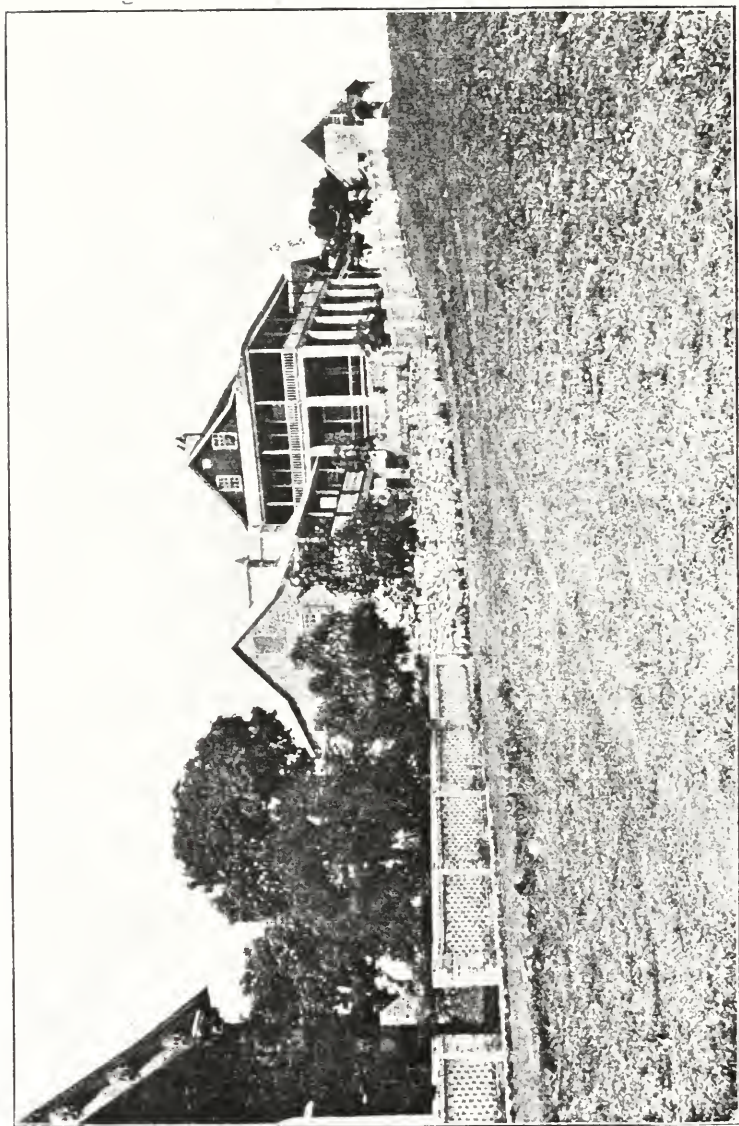
and which is master. The slave may acquire property and even hold slaves, so complex are the apparently primitive social arrangements. Like slavery in America, the worst thing about it is that the slave may be sold: The special brutality and horror appear when a trade exists. The willingness to attack and carry

off the inhabitants of the next village is well-nigh universal in Africa. There needs only to be a sufficient demand for the captives. It makes not the slightest difference in the world whether the "goods" are to be exported to America or carried across the Soudan to Egypt, or "educated" in mission schools in Africa or elsewhere—the pillage and cruelty which will be invoked to supply the demand are exactly the same.

A few days after the above was written\*, a half-civilized Kroo-man wanted to deposit as security for a small loan a paper certifying that the bearer was authorized to deliver on board the Spanish steamer for the Catholic mission at Fernando Po. "ten or fifteen boys." The loan was desired in order to get means of making the necessary purchases. It is possible that the destination of the boys might not have proved to be the mission at Fernando Po, but this does not alter the fact that a missionary trade is recognized to the extent that somebody is buying boys and does not hesitate to place orders in the hands of half-civilized savages whom nobody could suspect of the slightest compunctions at the idea of stealing children in preference to paying for them. Indeed it is not an uncommon thing for a child to disappear even in the more civilized parts of the coast. These facts came to the notice of the Government of Liberia, and prompt action was taken. It was found when the Spanish steamer arrived that in addition to the boys a considerable number of grown men were to be embarked by native "employment agents", and the whole stock was seized by the Government and lodged in jail until the steamer left. The boys were then bound out under the Liberian apprentice law to various citizens of the Republic, and the men sent back to their homes with admonitions of what would happen to them if they should again fall into the hands of the "agents."

At the same time the missionary intending to remove to Angola was informed that she would not be allowed to take her children out of the Republic. Thus has a negro government interfered to prevent a white missionary from taking native children two thousand miles from their parents and kindred, in accordance with the plans of a missionary Bishop. The good of the children was no doubt intended; possibly it was another case where the end was supposed to justify the means.

\*Monrovia, June, 1894.



*Part of Ashmun Street.*

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN LIBERIA.

In attempting to understand the social and educational conditions of Liberia, it is necessary to keep in mind the fact that the first settlements were made, and nearly all the emigration from the United States took place, before 1860. The emigration was, of course, largely from the Southern states, and the only civilization with which the people had come in contact was that of the "Old South." Since the date mentioned there has been some emigration from the United States, but without proper selection before starting, and without proper guidance and encouragement after arriving in Liberia. This has had a scarcely appreciable effect on the public character or attitude, notwithstanding many individual cases of well-earned success.

Among the decedents of the first emigrants however, the belief still remains strong that work is something to be escaped on the ground of principle as well as inclination. In planting a civilization here, they have of necessity planted the only sort of civilization with which they were acquainted. The Afro-American's civilized experience, sharpened wits, and, in some cases, slave-owning blood resulted in the closest imitation of the South of slavery days. Slavery, of course, is prohibited by the Liberian constitution, and it cannot be denied that the general effect of the Liberian on the native population, has been more beneficial, or, at least, less destructive, than in most cases of Caucasian contact with primitive peoples. But while the natives were not enslaved, the results for the Afro-American have been similar, for they filled their houses with servants and felt that dignity and physical exertion were incompatible. The pernicious effects of this system on the younger generation of Liberians is very marked. Brought up to be waited upon by native servants, they rarely gain habits of industry or self-reliance, and with no proper school advantages they reach maturity too often as examples of physical and mental weakness, completely unprepared for the responsibilities of life. One of the most discouraging features of the situation in Liberia exists in the frequency with which successful merchants and farmers are succeeded by incompetent and shiftless sons who allow the plantation to grow up to forest, the business to decay, and speedily spend their patrimony.



The social distinctions, too, between Afro-Americans and natives were drawn with as much rigor as between the races in the south, and with equal reason and justice, or injustice, as the case may be viewed. The similarity even went so far that at one time there was strong opposition to the education and progress of the natives, as dangerous to the state, in the same way that the South feared to put the power of knowledge into the hand of the slave. The



*Broad Street, Monrovia, Light-House in the Distance.*

suicidal nature of such a policy, is, however, at present generally appreciated in Liberia and the struggling republic finds itself in the presence of an educational work truly appalling. That better counsels have not yet prevailed throughout the Republic is, however, evidenced in a statement made by Bishop Ferguson in discussing the relations of the Liberians with one of the native tribes at Cape Palmas. The following quotation is from "An open Letter to Mrs. Amanda Smith, Colored Evangelist," noticed again below:

"We are censured by some narrow-minded persons for devoting so much attention to the education of the aborigines. Their fear is that the latter will thereby advance to the front leaving them in



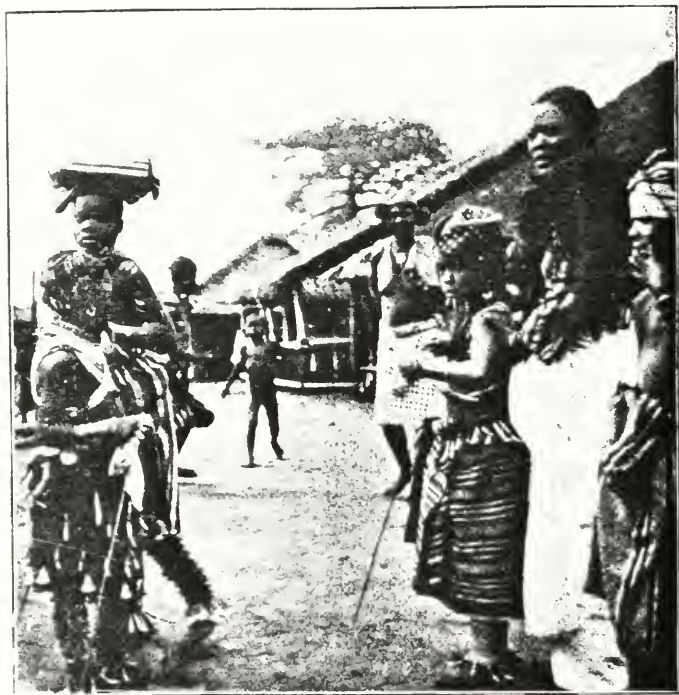
the back-ground. It is an undeniable fact that ignorance must always give place to intelligence; but there is no reason why the two classes of Liberian citizens should make any such exchange of places. The Americo-Liberians will have no good excuse for allowing their heathen brethren to get ahead of them while the educational advantages of the country are within reach of all. In our mission schools we welcome both classes and make no distinction



*Girl Fair at Krootown.*

between them. The policy which some of our citizens would have us pursue—that of keeping the natives in ignorance—would be detrimental to the interest of the State. If we would have a healthy and prosperous republican government, the masses, both civilized and uncivilized, must be enlightened.”

With the conditions of the ante-bellum South as far as possible duplicated, high social standards had poor chance of development. The average Liberian had slender opportunity in the United States to realize even the existence of an approximation to pure ideals. On the plantation the fourth commandment was of much more importance than the seventh; purity and probity had no apparent nor sure reward. Indeed, had the conditions been of the best, it



*Girl Fair at Krootown.*

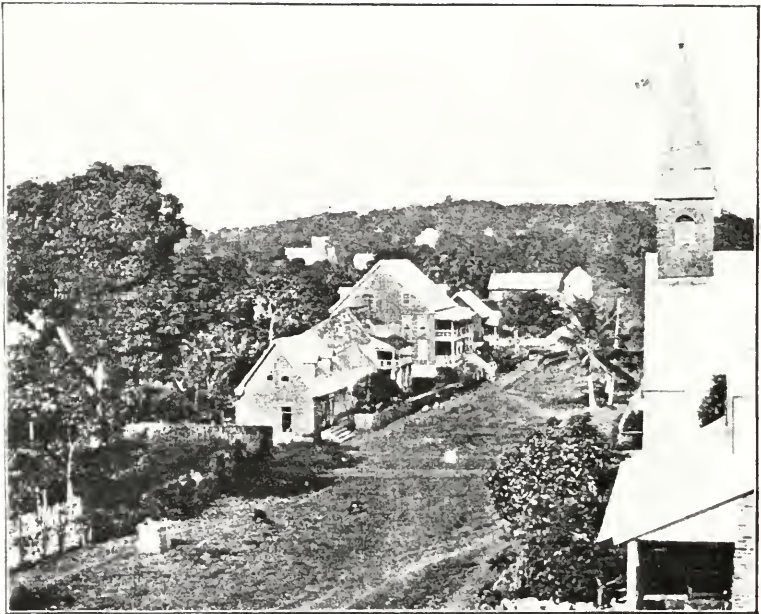
could not have been expected that a *race* would lose social instincts followed through thousands of years, and gain others as yet brought only to partial development by the highest civilizations.

But the issue is not to be avoided, Liberia must adopt these standards of the most advanced civilization and must progress in accordance with the light of the present century if she is to make

good her claim to be numbered as one of the nations of the world. Decadent nations from whom nothing is expected may perpetuate the morals of the past, but if Liberia is to progress, she must furnish the elements which the century demands. To her credit can be pointed out such facts as that in the one independent negro government on the west coast of Africa, there has been no movement toward the legalization of polygamy, advocated through the public press in the British colonies, while in other colonies legalization would be an unnecessary formality.

With the facts of Liberia's origin and past history in mind, it is evident that educational progress by and through the Liberian people is likely to be attended with enormous difficulties. The location of the country cuts her off from the progressive part of the world, and gives her over to the deadening influences of the most primitive barbarism. Her people have been, and are, with the scarcest exceptions, absolutely without the knowledge or experience necessary to make even the best of intentions eventuate in successful efforts. Scarcely any, to be more explicit, have ever seen a modern system of education in operation, and those who have were not in position to understand its management. For the great majority there is possible only an undefined interest in education as being something in a general way desirable. That this desire has perpetuated itself so long is, however, ground of hope in spite of the almost uniform failure of various attempted educational departures. The present conditions cannot continue. Liberia must retrograde unless some advance can be made. The sort of difficulties which beset the way may be judged, for instance, by the fact that on the death of Professor Brown in April of the last year, there was no one to take his place who had ever seen anything properly to be called a college in operation, or who had had, indeed, the slightest experience with educational work. The only persons mentioned as available were disqualified by considerations of personal habits and reputation. It does not suffice that there exists among a few men of thought and insight in Liberia very clear appreciation of what the situation really demands. Unless these can make their ideas felt in the next few years the case will become hopeless, for the educational advantages of the generation now growing up are so slight as to promise little in the way of men of whom much can be expected.

For present and practical purposes the vital question may be asked in this form—How far will Liberia avail herself of outside aid and talent in the way of education? On the part of the more intelligent and progressive class the answer is easy—to the fullest possible extent. The encouragement to be gained from gentlemen of the type mentioned, is, however, in serious danger of being dispelled by the gradual realization of the fact that there exists in the country a vast amount of the prejudice of a sort which would



*Ashmun Street, Monrovia; Methodist Church at the Left.*

be very ridiculous were it not suicidal. There are men in Liberia who attempt, sometimes with apparent success, to gain popularity by stirring up race prejudice. The existence of such proves, of course, that of a public to whom they can appeal. Now this prejudice, in reality only another attempt at imitating a supposed Caucasian attribute, "race pride," is sometimes sufficient to prevent successful and practical co-operation in good work. The history of missions in Liberia would be one long illustration of this principle.

It might be supposed that in a country like Liberia where the people have nothing to fear and everything to gain from legitimate and peaceful intercourse with more advanced civilization, this prejudice would not appear. Especially would this seem proper where people have striven to emancipate themselves from disqualifications incident to an unfortunate past. We are reminded of the Pilgrims, themselves refugees from religious persecution, burning and torturing Quakers and Baptists. There is, however, a grave distinction to be noted. The slightest ground is not apparent for supposing that prejudice against Europeans is a native or natural African characteristic; the first attitude of native Africans in all parts of the continent has been one of welcome and friendliness. In many cases single Europeans have lived for months or years among even the more blood-thirsty and war-like tribes. The abuse of confidence on the part of white men has in many cases altered these natural conditions, and yet a general attitude of friendliness remains, so that peaceful and reasonable travellers have little to fear in the way of bodily injury.

Missionaries and traders frequently remark the attitude of prejudice and suspicion manifested by some Liberians, and contrast it with the more natural and independent bearing of the better class of natives. Prejudice and suspicion are so mean and cowardly that to habitually entertain them is sure to destroy all the saving tendencies of human nature. This is one of the reasons why missionaries and teachers intending to work among Liberians have in many cases felt prompted to give all their time and attention to the natives.

That the prejudice is acquired, or more often affected, is acknowledged by many of the best educated and most thoughtful, while the ignorant seldom claim to possess it, and even themselves challenge the sincerity of those who do. The phenomenon is to be observed in its greatest development in those whose education and ability are meagre or defective, but who from vanity or other motives make great intellectual pretensions. It is also noteworthy that the fiercest denunciations of Europeans frequently come from persons with a large preponderance of white blood. How flimsy is the basis on which the whole matter rests may be judged from the fact that some light-colored people manifest the greatest zeal for the black race by stirring up prejudice against the white, but are notwithstanding, exceedingly proud of their white blood, and do



not hesitate to assert consequent superiority over their darker brethren, which pretensions and prejudice are met by more "prejudice," and so on down through all the shades in turn.

To those acquainted with race questions in America, it might appear that the conditions are exactly the same in Liberia. This would be a serious mistake; compared with the insane hatred sometimes manifested between the races in the South, Liberia is a peaceful Caanan. Having returned to his fatherland, and seen for himself the condition of the native African, the Afro-American very properly realizes his superiority. Very few Liberians have done what it might have been expected that many would do, return to the native mode of existence. Many Liberians, too, have pleasant memories of the United States, contrasting life there with the privations necessary in opening up a new country. In other words, being removed from the clash of interests which engenders a large part of the discord and bitterness in the United States, the people of Liberia have resumed more or less of the natural virtues of their race, and are helping to demonstrate that the chronic unrest of the American South is the result of the unnatural conditions, at least as far as the negro is concerned.

Thus while race suspicion is still a factor which cannot be wisely ignored in philanthropic work in Liberia, it is evidently on the decrease. Its manifestations have also become more or less periodical. Like the "Bloody Shirt" in the North and "Negro Domination" in the South, it is one of the sediments of the past into which politicians are accustomed to dive to hide their own deficiency of ideas and muddle the issues generally.

But however a white man may be distrusted, the distrust of a negro newly arrived in Liberia is several times greater. Suspicions which would scarcely be entertained without cause in the case of a white man will be readily believed in the case of a negro, who must live much longer in Liberia and behave himself quite as well before he can gain the same amount of confidence. Neglect of these facts and others related is another cause of the failure of Missionary efforts in Liberia.

A considerable part of this ill-feeling toward "new-comers" has no doubt, been engendered by numerous intellectually untrained and constitutionally untruthful negroes who have visited Liberia in all capacities, from United States Ministers down to assisted emi-



grants, and who have returned to America to publish luxuriant fabrications about the country and people of Liberia. A recent case which is at present (March 1895) the occasion of a manifestation of feeling is that of Mrs. Amanda Smith. Some years since (1882-1890) Mrs. Smith visited Liberia as an evangelist. During her extended stay she was most hospitably treated, and entertained in private families nearly the whole time. She has seen fit to repay this kindness by writing a book of cant, gossip, and personal re-creminations. A lady by whose family she was entertained more than half of the seven years, and who paid all of Mrs. Smith's expenses on a trip to the Canary Islands is said to be described as a snake which appeared in a dream. So apparent are the ignorance and indirection that the matter would perhaps have met an early oblivion had not Bishop Ferguson felt called upon to answer certain charges against the Episcopal Church and mission at Cape Palmas. The Bishop evidently and professedly does not relish his task, but deems a reply necessary in justice to the foreign friends and supporters of his work. His "Open Letter to Mrs. Amanda Smith, 'Colored Evangelist'" is a pamphlet of over 40 pages. It quotes extensively from Mrs. Smith's book and convicts her, by her own testimony, of uncharitableness, unjust judgements, and of repeated infractions of the truth, even in a case where she specifically states that she was an eye-witness of events which happened on the Cavalla River while she, according to Bishop Ferguson, was at Cape Palmas, over twenty miles away. Indeed, the book is so full of inaccuracies of all kinds that attention would be wasted, were it not for the fact that Mrs. Smith enjoys a very considerable prominence in certain religious and missionary circles in the United States, and would probably be believed in preference to a great deal of outside testimony, black or white. Her book has been highly complimented by ministers and others and a (white) bishop wrote the introduction for it. Yet it is perfectly evident to those who have seen what she pretends to describe that Mrs. Smith is an illiterate woman without the ability to tell the truth, whatever her intentions may have been. That she is one of the most prominent and widely known woman of her race is a great misfortune to all concerned, Mrs. Smith included. She is evidently the victim of a body of religious specialists in the United

States, whose exclusive attention to spiritual pathology has rendered them especially susceptible to deception. With the ready imitative power of her race Mrs. Smith has adopted the Shibboleths of this band, and no matter what or how evident her deficiencies may be, they are completely overlooked, and her book is hailed as an inspiration. The following quotation shows with what ecstasy it was received by a white Doctor of Divinity :

#### AUTO-BIOGRAPHY OF AMANDA SMITH.

"Ho! ho! Amanda Smith has flowered up into a woman of letters—a veritable literatus and authoress. A neat and well enough written book lies before me. It is the *Life and Travels of Mrs. Amanda Smith*—a wonder from beginning to end. It is a history of the career of one of the most remarkable woman of the age. Amanda Smith is one of the many evidences of Christianity—a walking textbook—an object lesson. Nothing but Divine Grace could stoop so low or lift so high.

The book is written in the simple colloquial style of her race, and salted all through with pure religion and elevated thoughts. There is no bombast, no exaggeration, no egotism, only an unvarnished story showing how God can exalt the lowly."

— Rev. A. Lowrey, D. D.

Divine Life, November, 1893.

Here are two unvarnished grains of this pure religious salt:

"Just as we were about to sing Brother S—— sprang to his feet and shouted at the top of his voice: 'But you must go through! You must go through! Victory! Victory! Victory!' He went over the tops of the seats like a streak of light. I tried to catch him. I was afraid he would kill himself. But he swung from my grasp as though he had been oiled" (p. 444).

"When the Holy Ghost struck her, she whirled like a top, round and round and round! We could not touch her. She went just like a streak through the bush out into the street. I thought she would kill herself. Oh, I was frightened. As she rolled over, she kept saying: 'Glory, glory, glory to Jesus! Glory!' The sisters followed after her, and tried to hold her, but could not. By and by she sprang up all at once, and didn't she shout!"

These are evidently quite too much for Bishop Ferguson. He says: "From such [experiences] we need to pray, as in our Litany, 'Good Lord, deliver us.'"

"I frankly admit that if we are to be weighed in such balances as these we shall be found wanting."

Yet the disadvantages of work in Africa are such that it is really necessary to notice charges brought by such an irresponsible party. So Bishop Ferguson proceeds to a formal denial, and adds a statement of the needs of his field which missionaries of all denominations might well consider.

"Such is the reputation that you [Mrs. Smith] bear and your standing in certain circles, that it is taken for granted that whatever statements you are pleased to make must be true, whoever might be the victim of your allegations."

"Since the establishment of the Episcopal Mission here no such tirade has ever before appeared in print against it: and if your allegations are true, all the civilized world should demand its extinction."

"Now, therefore, in the name of the African Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church, I positively deny the allegations which you have made against us, as above quoted."

"I fear that your coming to Cape Palmas has been productive of much evil. A decided change as regards the bearing of Christians of your denomination towards us has marked your visit here.

"Coming here, bearing such a reputation for holiness and zeal in the service of God, which made it possible for you to exercise a great influence for good, it would have redounded to your everlasting credit, had you sought to promote Christian love and union.

"In no part of the world is there a greater need of love and union among professed Christians than here in this heathen land. Besides the importance of concerted action to overcome the powers of darkness, incalculable evil is done to the detriment of the cause of Christ when the Gospel is presented to the heathen as a system which tolerates sectarian strife and enmity:—when they are taught that all the rancor and strife, to which they were given, and which led to endless domestic feuds and tribal wars, keeping the country always in a state of commotion, are not contrary to

the requirements of the religion of Jesus Christ; but that they may be Christians and still hate, 'bite and devour one another.'"

All of which goes to show the need in Liberia of sober and sensible people. One ignorant and irresponsible person like Mrs. Smith can do more harm in a few months than a cultured and faithful



*Miss Sharp and Her School.*

man like Bishop Ferguson can undo in a whole life-time, though it may be hoped that the present case is hardly so serious. It is certain, however, that every stranger who requites kindness by misrepresentation makes the welcome of those who come after less cordial.

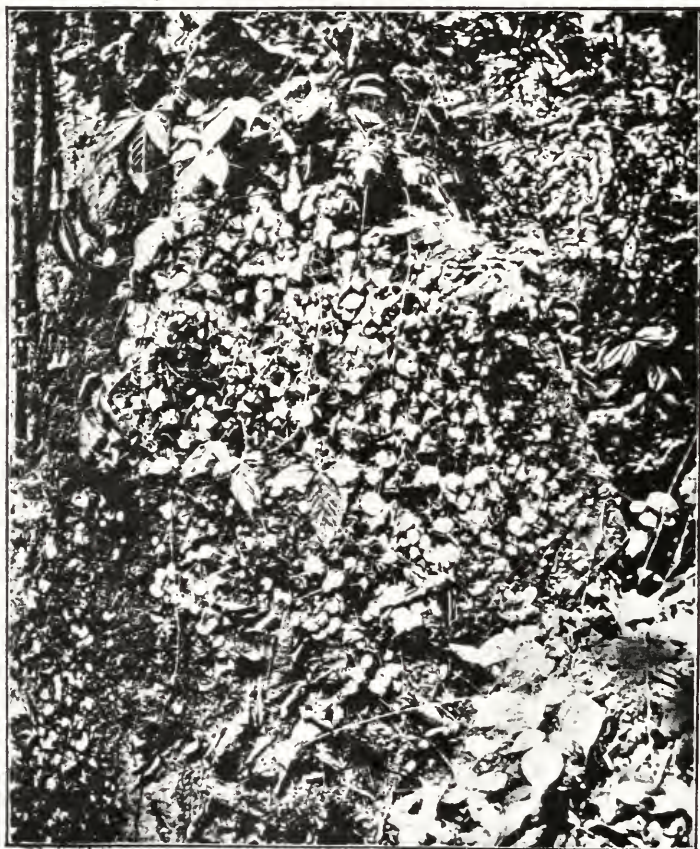
The fact of general preference for, and greater confidence in white assistance, especially in religious and educational work, is ignored by most philanthropists, and even when recognized, is looked upon as a weakness in the race, rather than as a manifestation of practical common sense. Every honest negro or white man who has given the matter a moment's thought knows that the presumption of intellectual training and enlightened character is in the direction of the white race. To suppose an intelligent negro to be unable to comprehend the fact is itself an implication of imbecility under which he is justly indignant, but at the same time speechless, because the race pride which philanthropy is so anxious to inculcate should render him blind to any deficiencies in a man of his own color. One of the greatest hinderances to the progress of the race at the present day is this unwise policy of crowding incompetent and untrained persons into positions of responsibility and prominence, simply because they are negroes, when white men of the same qualifications would never be considered possible candidates. Indeed, this is one of the severest crosses which the negro of real culture and character must bear. No matter how great his ability or exalted his virtue may be, he will scarcely escape the implication that he holds his official station or position in the community by the same tenure as his incompetent colleagues or co-workers, who appreciate neither their own deficiencies nor his superiority, and who will always manifest towards him an attitude of petty jealousy or offensive familiarity.

Liberia's origin and history are a sufficient explanation of the present condition in this and other respects, and it must also be confessed, as far as concerns white men, that the attitude of the Liberian public has been justified much too often. Missionaries and others have given way to personal motives and trivial annoyances so frequently as to destroy confidence, had any existed. It will do no good to assail the people of Liberia for their apparent folly in particular cases: the great majority would, no doubt, assume a different attitude were there sufficient general ground for so doing. The extreme complication of the situation must not, however, be overlooked by those interested in any sort of good work in Liberia, lest unreasonable expectations of results lead to disappointment and despair.



## MONROVIA AND ST. PAUL'S RIVER.

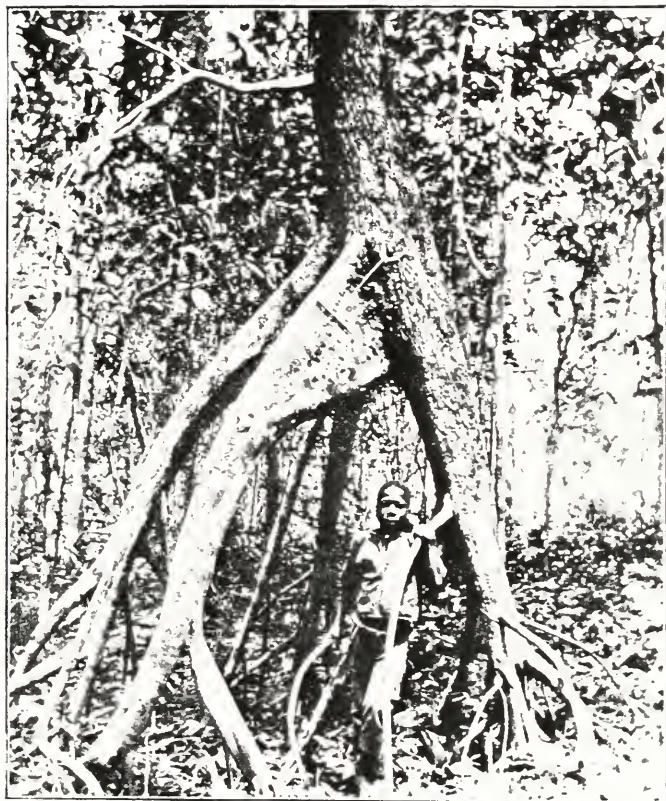
Before going to Monrovia, I read various accounts of Monrovia calculated to give the idea that the town consisted merely of a few scattered houses hidden in dense thickets which had completely overgrown what had formerly been streets. This is as far wrong as other statements to the effect that Monrovia is a flourishing city of 12,000 or 14,000 inhabitants. The fact is that Monrovia is a quiet village of perhaps 2,500 people. If the population of the



*A Large Rock in the Forest, Overgrown with Wild Begonias.*



neighboring Krootown is reckoned in, the number will be at least doubled. The soil of Cape Mesurado and the adjoining hills is mostly too rocky for cultivation; in many places nothing but jagged rocks are found when the tangled mass of vegetation has been removed. These facts prevent the existence of many successful farms in the vicinity of Monrovia, and hence there is little



*Roots of "Spike-Wood" Tree.*

object in clearing land beyond what is used for yards and streets. Thus it happens that many of the streets of Monrovia, if followed out, lead into dense thickets of tropical vegetation, but this does not affect the fact that there are several miles of open streets.

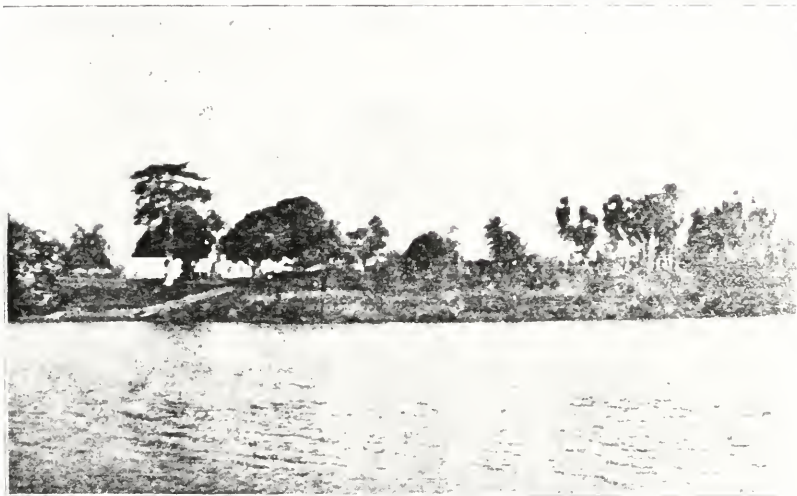
Weeds, trees and vines grow with wonderful luxuriance, and are cut several times a year. The entire absence of beasts of burden and wheeled vehicles has not necessitated the proper grading of the streets, and allows grass to grow except in the walks and foot-paths. Of course, this appears very strange and unprogressive. Residents of Monrovia have, however, the consolation of being



*Pandanus Swamp.*

free from noise, dust and bad smells. There is also none of the glaring light so uncomfortable in tropical cities with paved or dusty streets. As shade-trees, there are many beautiful mangoes and cocoanuts and many other species in less numbers. There are many well-built and comfortable houses, some with well-kept

yards and gardens. The site of Monrovia is one of great natural beauty, and there is every encouragement for keeping the material development in the line of the natural possibilities. The business portion of the town along the foot of the hill is being too much neglected. The lines of the streets are not being preserved, and if the present process continues, the result will be a disorderly collection of very miscellaneous structures. In some places there are unsightly pits and pools flooded at high tides. As the water is salt, these are perhaps not as dangerous as they look. It very frequently happens that visitors to the coast land from the steamers,



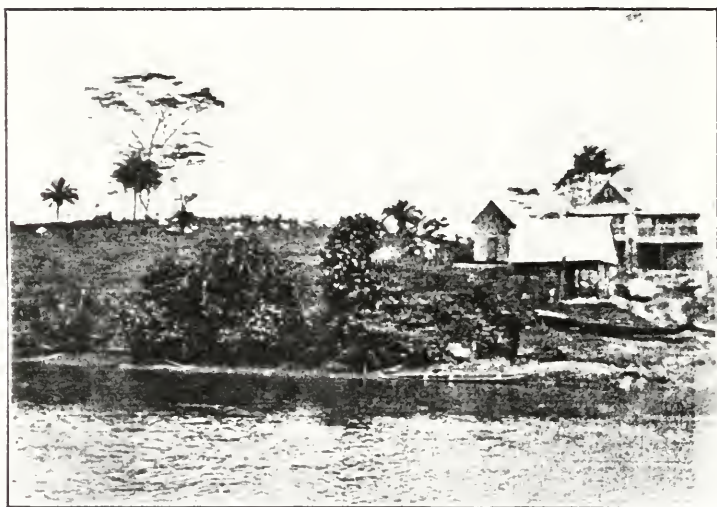
*Residence and Grounds of Mr. Decosses, St. Paul's River.*

walk through Krootown and along the "waterside" and return to Europe and America to give their impressions of Liberia. However unjust and mistaken the reports of such may be, it would be better policy to make that part of the town more respectable in appearance. The puddles are not an advantage, and the cost of filling them up need not be considerable.

One of the greatest disadvantages of Monrovia is the lack of a sufficient water supply. There are numerous wells, but most of them are very shallow. They have to be put down through rock,

and by the crude methods employed, the work is very expensive. A colonist, with experience and machinery for drilling wells through rock, would be a useful citizen for Monrovia to secure. However, most of the year the water supply is ample, the deficiency being felt only at the end of the dry season, that is during March and April. The subterranean supply would in all probability be sufficient if the wells were deep enough to reach it, and is of good quality.

Krootown offers a striking contrast to Monrovia proper. The native conditions are very slightly modified by the close proximity of civilization. With one or two exceptions, the houses are all of



*Clay Ashland.*

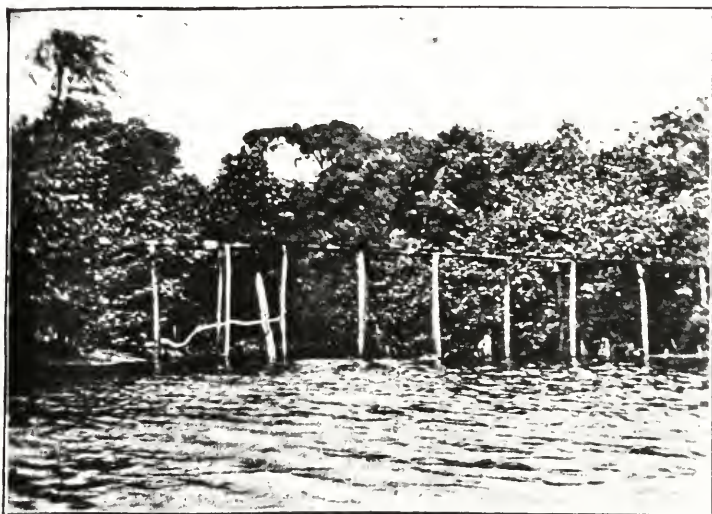
the native style, low square structures with walls of coarse mats and roof of palm-thatch.

European dress is being gradually adopted, but the great majority of the population is thoroughly savage in the sense of being primitive. Civilization is, however, taking hold. In many of the houses are to be found lamps, dishes and pictures, such as they are. The people show good judgment in not adopting European dress to a greater degree, for it is entirely unsuited to their needs



and methods of life. The civilized part of the population of Liberia wears too many clothes. By persistently following such a course,

the Liberians have persuaded themselves that they need the superfluous covering. Indeed, they have in many cases produced and perpetuated an invalid condition, so that to remove the clothing would require caution in order not to suffer from the change. The Kroo people are mostly not burdened with a superfluity of clothing, although the wearing of one or two of the garments of a civilized outfit is very common.



*Bridge near Clay Ashland.*

From Monrovia the St. Paul's River is reached by passing for eight miles through Stockton Creek, a narrow, crooked bayou. This is lined on both sides for a large part of the distance with mangrove, at intervals interspersed with Pandanus, one of the screw-palms, in Liberia generally called "Dragon's Blood." The banks of Stockton Creek are of course uninhabited except for an occasional native settlement in places where the ground is high enough to permit of cultivation. The banks of St. Paul's River are high and the swamps cease at the end of Stockton Creek. For twenty miles there is a broad navigable river, with

many farms and grounds. One of the best kept places on the river is that of Mr. Decosses. The various settlements along the river are not villages in the American sense, but are clusters of farms with township government. Caldwell is the first settlement at the right going up. Clay Ashland is the nearest approach to a village, there being stores and houses near together. It has also the only hill near the river. Scattered over the hill are numerous white quartz boulders. Some "geologist" pronounced these "limestone," and various ineffectual attempts at burning them were made. Just above Clay Ashland is one of the characteristic bridges of the country—passable for foot passengers, but not adapted to the use of beasts of burden.

Arthington is generally considered to be the most flourishing



*Baptist Church at Arthington, with Coffee Farms.*

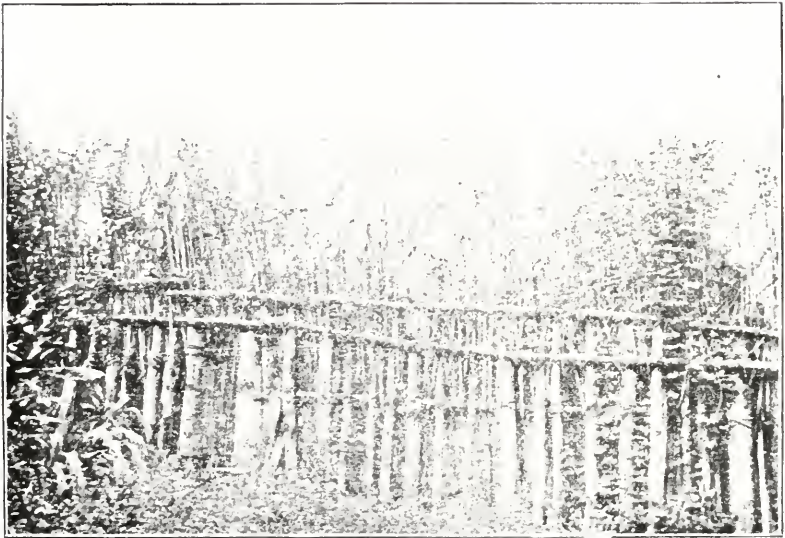
settlement in the St. Paul's region, if not in all Liberia. It has expanded as far as is possible without the introduction of beasts of burden. Several square miles of coffee are under cultivation, and many evidences of prosperity are present. With the introduction of improved means of transportation the whole region of Arthington, Mt. Coffee and Careyburg might become an important beginning toward the settlement and improvement of the interior.

Behind Arthington and Mt. Coffee the conditions are entirely



primitive, the natives having been very little influenced in their modes of life by the proximity of civilization. Still, many of the old things have passed away, the tribal organizations have been largely broken up, and superstitions have lost much of their fierceness, though clung to with the greatest tenacity, even in spite of the advantages of missions and schools.

Fifteen or twenty miles behind the last Liberian settlers the proximity of another society has no longer any appreciable force. The natives barricade their towns and indulge in wars which sometimes extend down to the borders of settlements. The barricaded towns have the appearance of enormous chicken-yards. The barricades are constructed, as may be judged from the photo-



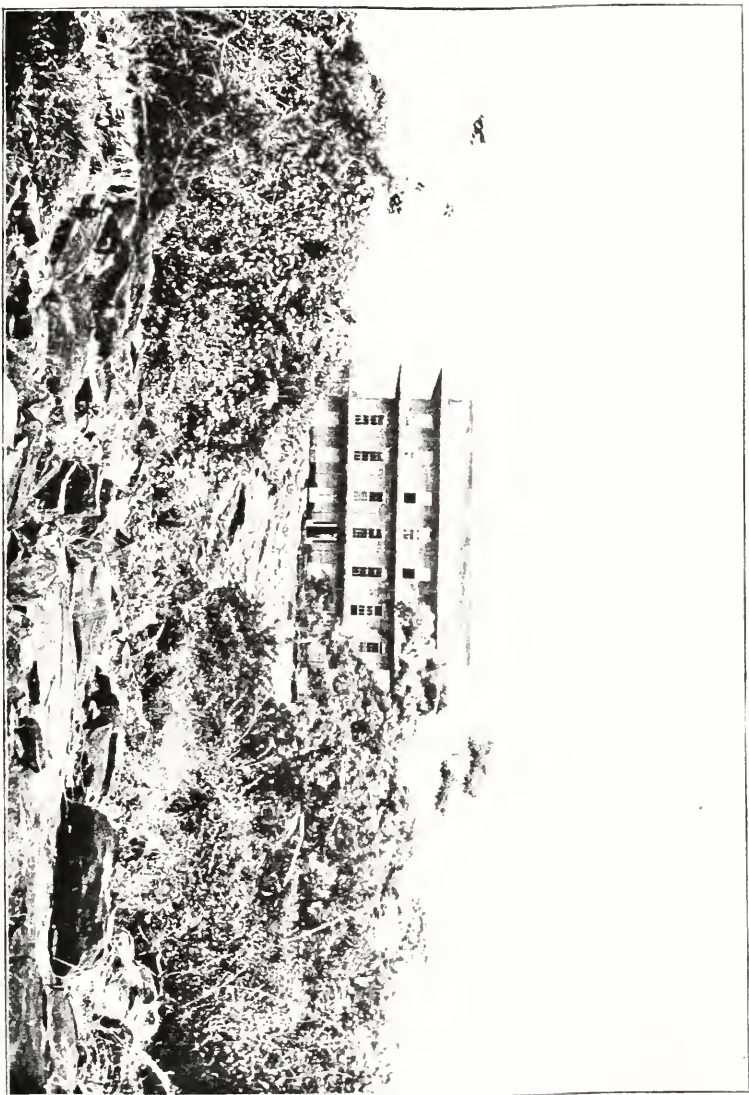
*Barricaded Golah Town.*

graphs, entirely of wood ingeniously held together by wild vines, or as they are usually called "country rope."

In former times mission stations were projected far back in the interior, even to Boporu, about 97 miles from the coast. It was never found possible to actually establish these stations except in a few cases and then they were not maintained except for very brief periods. The interior will probably not be penetrated by

Christianity until more or less civilization is also carried. The problem is, as has been pointed out in discussing colonization, merely one of transportation.

Among the Golahs, and in fact all the interior tribes, houses are almost invariably, constructed with the walls plastered with clay, and a Golah town has an entirely different appearance from a Kroo town.



LIBERIA COLLEGE.

## RECENT HISTORY OF LIBERIA COLLEGE.

As noted in the last report the affairs of Liberia College were in July 1894 apparently at a crisis. A statement of the condition of instruction and discipline had been drawn up by the faculty. The allegations of this paper\* were explicit and carefully detailed, and it was hoped that the Executive Committee would take immediate action to correct the abuses and render unnecessary further publicity of facts so fatal to any high opinion of the efficiency of the local management. A copy of the faculty's "statement" was left with Col. A. D. Williams, a member of the committee resident in Monrovia. It had been my intention to send copies to the other members, and to transmit one with proper formalities to the Secretary of the committee. This I was prevented from doing by the fact that the steamer on which we had booked passage came in some days ahead of schedule time. I had, however, taken occasion to inform other members of the committee that Colonel Williams had in his possession a copy of a communication prepared by members of the faculty for the committee.

The result showed better than a deliberately prepared experiment could have done what are the methods and principles of management under which Liberia College has not progressed. Although the committee and public generally knew and were accustomed to discuss the facts which served as the basis for the faculty's "statement," that paper was brought before the committee in the face of opposition, and Colonel Williams has been severely criticised for insisting on its being read. The committee refused to take action on the ground that the document had not been transmitted with sufficient formality. What is of more importance, no action was taken calculated to remove the various abuses, but the committee did not hesitate to exceed its powers by passing a resolution which resulted in the immediate resignation of Professor Arthur Barclay, the oldest officer of the college, and the one best acquainted with the needs of its management. Professor Perry, though then living at the College, gave notice that he would be responsible no longer for the discipline of the students, the inaction of the committee having left him no means of enforcing authority.

\*Quoted in part in a letter to the Trustees of Liberia College.

Had the condition of affairs been less serious, the refusal of the committee to take action might appear in a less unfavorable light; the issues were, however, so placed that by refusing to consider the representations and recommendations of its faculty, the committee definitely assumed responsibility for the vicious conditions.

The statement to the committee was understood by those who prepared it to be one of a series of definite efforts toward bringing some order out of the chaos from which the affairs of Liberia College have never emerged. That progress has been made may, under the circumstances, appear doubtful, but it may be useful, nevertheless, to show that care has been taken to move always in one direction and not wander aimlessly about. The issue which the faculty consistently followed was, in the words of the "statement," that, "During vacations and frequently at other times the students are left entirely to their own devices, without any supervision whatever." At any time and in any country this would be considered a most flagrant violation of the confidence reposed by parents in those to whom the education of their children is entrusted; in Liberia the local conditions render the responsibility as great as possible.

In January, 1894, there were a dozen or more students at the College without care or oversight; they could learn only idleness and worse. During the first term (Feb. 1—Apr. 15) the students were, except during recitations, without oversight. The lack of water-supply at the college and the sickness of Professor Brown were the most important explanations offered when the matter was brought up in a meeting of the faculty. At the opening of the next term (May) Professor Brown died. The question of electing his successor was immediately raised, but the faculty felt so keenly the need of someone who could give his whole time to the work of the College and have charge of the building and students during vacations and holidays, that a resolution was passed requesting the Executive Committee to defer action long enough to consider the plan of securing a professor from the United States, who should be free from all business or professional interests in Liberia and able to give the college his undivided attention. This idea was disapproved by some members of the Executive Committee and the faculty's resolution was suppressed thus preventing formal action by the committee, although all had favored the plan when

it was under discussion in the meeting of the faculty. It was thus made apparent that under the present laws and management the faculty would be powerless to effect any reforms, although the desire to do so was evident. Hence the direct appeal to the committee involved in the faculty "statement."

When we returned to Liberia in December Professor Barclay had resigned, and the instruction in mathematics was being supplied by Mr. B. J. K. Anderson. Mr. Stevens, agent of the American Colonization Society had been put in charge of the Department of English. The discipline of the institution had, if possible, still further deteriorated, and if current reports of scandalous nature were not true the credit must lie with the students, for they are under neither influence, inducement, nor compulsion to behave well. This lack of moral stimulus is the fatal thing, and the opportunities of learning idleness and vice are much greater than those of intellectual and moral improvement. Were this is not the case, the deficiencies of equipment and instruction might be patiently borne with, under the idea that at least a little good is being done; but at present it is difficult to imagine a worse place to send a youth. The catalogue of things that are wanting might be continued to great length, and would include everything supposed to render schools and colleges agencies of improvement.

On learning of the committee's practical refusal to act, it appeared to me that a copy of the faculty's "statement" should be placed before the Board of Trustees at its January meeting. The other subscribers, however, thought it sufficient that the paper had been before the committee, and suggested that it would be better to call the attention of the Board to the matter by means of a letter. Shortly afterward President Cheeseman assured me of his deep interest in the college, and expressed confidence that the Trustees were ready to enter upon reforms. The President also discussed briefly some of the difficulties in the way of progress for the institution, and requested that suggestions of methods of surmounting them should be submitted to the Trustees.

My opinion had been that it would be much better if the reformatory measures were initiated by the Board, but the President assured me that much more could be expected from definite suggestions, and repeated his request. This was also seconded by some of the Trustees, who however informed me that important



action would probably be taken, and in this hope the matter was allowed to rest until the meeting of the Board. Nothing was done at the regular meeting, and rather than that the uncertainty be continued another year, the following letter was sent in, and was read at the adjourned meeting of the Board, January 17, 1895.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIBERIA COLLEGE,  
GENTLEMEN:

In July last, members of the Faculty drew up a "*Statement of the Present Condition of Liberia College.*" That paper was intended for the Executive Committee of your Honorable Body, but I was prevented by accident from transmitting it as agent of the New York State Colonization Society with sufficient formality to obtain the attention of the committee.

This statement is now before me. It declares that the scholarship, discipline and management are of low grade and wholly inefficient, and gives numerous details as a basis of this discouraging view. Among these may be quoted the following:

"Students [\*] habitually indulge in profane, obscene, and rebellious language in the college building.

"The law prohibiting the use of tobacco by students is frequently violated with impunity.

"Students have in many cases absented themselves without excuse from recitations and examinations, an action directly contrary to the rules.

"Students having rooms at the College observe none of the laws regarding hours of absence and study, and frequently indulge in boistrous language and other disturbance until very late hours, sometimes until midnight.

"During vacations and frequently at other times the students are left entirely to their own devices without any supervision whatever. This gives opportunity for disorder of any sort, opportunity which, according to public rumor, has been improved by indulgence in various kinds of indecency and immorality.

"The power to reform these abuses is lodged by the Rules in the Faculty, but no Faculty action can be made effective without the presence and concurrence of the President."

It was personally known to some of the members of the Faculty that the parents of many of the students had sent their sons to college with the expectation that they would be under wise and careful discipline and control, in order that at the end of their college course they might return home prepared to fill honorable and responsible positions in the community. Especially was this known to be the case with young men from the Leeward Counties, and the Faculty felt that a grave responsibility had been assumed when the means and facilities for discharging it were inadequate. It was with this idea in mind that the "statement" referred to was concluded as follows:

"In view of the above recited facts, we can explain and excuse our continued connection with the institution only on the ground that we have hoped for something better. Reasons for such hope have of late seemed to grow less, and we feel that we can best discharge our duty to the institution by stating our conviction that the present conditions are profitable neither to the students, the Faculty, nor the country, and that unless an early and radical change can take place the work of the institution will cease to serve any useful purpose."

"The language of the 'Statement' furnished no ground for the idea that all the students have been disorderly; students with the instincts of gentlemen have acted as such while those lacking in this respect have not been restrained."

"We would repeat, in conclusion, that we see no hope except in such a radical change in the rules and administration of the institution as will make possible harmonious action and execution on the part of the Faculty."

To continue the present conditions can only give the impression abroad that the people of Liberia have no deep interest in intellectual improvement. This I believe not to be the fact, but it will be impossible to prevent the inference being drawn. It will certainly be a misfortune if it should be found that funds bequeathed for the work of education in Liberia cannot be used in accordance with modern ideas and methods. It is sometimes supposed in Liberia that Trustees of funds in America are not anxious to co-operate. This is entirely a mistake, there being the fullest desire to contribute to any real and practical effort. Such, however, does not at present exist in connection with the work of Liberia College. To continue to use funds in support of an idle and fruitless institution is not within the spirit or the letter of the duties of such Trustees, and to perpetuate the present conditions here will be to further jeopardize the existence of the trust funds. It would seem that no one in Liberia would be willing to assume the responsibility of depriving the present and future generations of Liberian youth of the benefactions intended to be theirs perpetually.

To look upon the present methods of college government and management as worthy of further trial after the Faculty has thus declared the fruitlessness of its own efforts seems scarcely reasonable.

The "harmonious action and execution" for which the Faculty expresses a desire are first essentials of a successful educational institution. It is not impossible, I believe, to secure this harmony among the interests supporting the College, as well as inside the Faculty. Some of the rules of the College are the direct cause of a part of the discord, and the organization and anomalous relations of the different contributing and governing interests have greatly increased the difficulties of the situation. After a careful study of the matter, I cannot see how the institution can receive anything but benefit from a complete reorganization under principles now almost universally observed in the management of institutions of higher learning. Among such principles of government may be mentioned the following, to which are added a few suggestions toward their practical application to the present needs.

I. *The President to be directly responsible to the Local and Foreign Boards for the entire work and management of the institution*, and to be elected with the expressed concurrence of all Boards or Societies contributing funds to the support of the institution.

II. *The Faculty to have entire control of the internal management of the College*, including the discipline and courses of study, subject only to the by-laws of the College proposed by the Faculty and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

III. *The Faculty to elect its own officers excepting the President, and proceed according to rules adopted by the Faculty itself*, subject only to the by-laws of the College, as above.

IV. *The President to nominate all members of his Faculty* and have the power of appointing new Professors for one year, to fill vacancies in established chairs or subordinate positions. This last prerogative will make it easier to secure the services of professors from abroad.

V. *President and Professors to be regularly elected for terms of five years, subject to indefinite re-election*. The re-election of any officer to be accomplished in the same manner as the original electing, except that the President may not re-appoint the same person to the same position without the special consent of the Board of Trustees.

VI. *Societies or Boards contributing to the support of the College to be invited to appoint delegates or agents to sit with the local Board of*

*Trustees.* This would insure an opportunity of having the wishes and intentions of all interested parties made known, and tend to avoid the misunderstandings which have always existed.

So general is the recognition of these principles abroad, that there need be little doubt that the American interests concerned will consent to any readjustment necessary to their incorporation into the policy of the institution. Many details of the present laws of the College would, of course, need amendment, should your Honorable Body decide upon a reformed policy, but the changes would, I believe, be warranted by the improvement to be expected.

MONROVIA, January 9th, 1895.

In the interest of clearness attention may be called again to the fact that the present charter and by-laws of the college are in such an unorganized state, and so contradictory and vague even in cases where they are apparently explicit, that the responsibilities and duties of the different governing bodies and officers are practically undefined. Thus the position of president is, strictly speaking, untenable, for that officer is always at the mercy of the Executive Committee, and liable to interference in any matter from the most trivial to the most vital. There is also a ridiculous provision for an appeal to the committee by students who have been expelled, so that the institution is liable at any time to the disturbance of protracted litigation.

The president must furthermore bear all the responsibility of faculty action, and may be obliged to directly concur in measures to which he is opposed, with the alternative of antagonizing his whole faculty by refusing to approve what all favor. Thus even if all concerned had honestly endeavored to carry out their different ideas, the result could have been only discord and failure until a complete reorganization had been effected. It is perhaps a consequence of having attempted so long to operate the institution under these disadvantages, that a policy of doing nothing has become habitual, and few seem to realize that anything better is possible. So, in entire conformity with previous experiences, no action was taken calculated to show the position of the Trustees upon the suggestion submitted in my letter, but the question was raised that their adoption would necessitate a revision of the charter of the college, and a committee was appointed to report at the next meeting of the Board. As this will occur in January, 1896, when the Legislature will have adjourned, no changes in the charter could be made until December, 1897, so that, speaking practically, the disposition of the matter by the

Board of Trustees is equivalent to an invitation to wait two years or more. Of course it would be better to wait than to do anything rash, but as the present experiment has been a recognized failure for about forty years, it would seem that some change could be made without serious danger of precipitancy. Had the Board desired to adopt any of these or other improvements, a decision to that effect would have made it possible to enter at once upon the necessary negotiations, and any desired amendments to the charter could have been placed before the Legislature in December of the present year. Even this delay would be unnecessary if all interested should agree to put into operation any measure of improvement.

After the meeting of the Board some of the members justified the refusal to act, by declaring that my letter constituted a demand that the entire management of the college be turned over to the American societies! It is difficult to understand how such a construction could be placed, but the matter is easily explainable by the fact that some of the most prominent and intelligent men in Liberia, openly and emphatically declare the opinion that the college will never succeed under the local management, and have repeatedly expressed the hope that the Trustees themselves would request the American societies to take entire charge. On attention being called to the disadvantages unavoidable under such an arrangement, the reply has been that matters could be no worse than now and might be better, improvement being most improvable under the present management.

The fact should not be overlooked that some members of the Liberian Board are anxious for the prosperity of the college, and also greatly desire that the development may go on as far as possible under national auspices. This attitude is certainly the best in theory, but it is at least doubtful whether it can be reconciled with the present conditions and needs. It seems that the careful consideration of details necessary to successful management under the difficult conditions is hardly to be expected. This, however, would not be so necessary if the wisdom of an honest policy adapted to the peculiar needs of Liberia were more clearly appreciated, along with the propriety of ceasing to interfere in particulars which can be properly dealt with only by those who have the work of the institution immediately in hand.

On the 21st of January, Chief Justice Z. B. Roberts, a member of the Board of Trustees, left with me an informal paper intended as a substitute for the recommendations of my letter to the Board, and it was desired to know whether the American societies would be likely to receive the proposition favorably. As this paper touches on several matters of interest on both sides it may be well to introduce it here.

"Articles of agreement touching the interest of Liberia College, to be confirmed by the local Board and the foreign Boards and Societies interested.

1. The College to remain, as established, a national Institution, in Monrovia, except by the unanimous consent of all the Boards and Societies concerned.

2. The foreign Boards of Donation shall be invested with the power to appoint the President and members of the Faculty, subject to the approval of the Local Board in Liberia.

3. The Local Board in Liberia, shall have the power to elect the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretaries and Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee of the Liberia Board shall have the power to elect all beneficiary students.

5. The Executive Committee shall elect the Principal of the Preparatory Department, fix his salary, and dismiss him where appears, in their judgment, to be sufficient reasons for so doing.

6. It shall be the duty of the President and Faculty to institute and establish rules for the government of the institution, subject to the approval of the Liberian Board.

7. The President shall make suitable annual reports, in writing, to the Liberian Board, in the city of Monrovia.

8. The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend any unfaithful, immoral, or obnoxious officer, or member of the Faculty, and to move, or memorialize the foreign Boards, for good cause shown, to supply his place. In case of obstinate refusal on the part of the foreign Boards to fill the vacancy thus made by such dismissal on the part of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill said vacancy, subject to the confirmation of the Liberian Board.

9. The Principal of the Preparatory Department shall make monthly reports to the Executive Committee, of the status of that department."

It was naturally a gratification to see indications of interest in the subject, and these proposals may yet serve their purpose as a basis of negotiations. In order that no time might be lost I wrote an immediate reply, but Judge Roberts was very busy with his judicial duties and shortly after returned to his home at Simon, so that nothing further was done. The paper quoted was, however, discussed more or less among the Trustees resident in Monrovia, but with no manifestation of unanimity, so that it can hardly be looked upon as a complete solution of the difficulty. To me it seemed that some of the more vital deficiencies were not supplied, as explained in the following reply :

MONROVIA, January 21st, 1895.

HONORABLE Z. B. ROBERTS, CHIEF JUSTICE.

DEAR SIR :

It is, of course, impossible for me to say whether the foreign Boards would or would not favor some particular change in the methods of legislation and management of Liberia College. In my letter to the local Board of Trustees I have ventured to suggest a line of policy calculated to increase the harmony and efficiency of the institution. The recommendations were made in good faith, and with the belief that they would obviate some of the serious difficulties in the way of success of the College. As stated in my letter, the adoption of these recommendations would, in the interest of consistency, involve a revision of the law of the College, but it was not supposed that an amendment of the Charter would be *necessary* if in the interests of the work any of the Boards should choose to waive a technical right.

The paper which you left for consideration does not, on the whole appear calculated to create the harmony so much needed. In the first place it seems to leave unconsidered the most important principle—that the President should have power commensurate with his responsibility. In the consideration of such questions there is often a tendency to proceed mostly along theoretical lines. The management of the College is a highly practical matter. Permit me to point out what appear to me to be practical difficulties connected with some of the propositions of your paper.

1. Resolutions favoring the removal of the College have been passed, at one time or another, I think, by all the interested Boards. Such removal is not now *practicable*, and I doubt the wisdom of raising the question at this time.

2. The principle involved in this article is nearly the same as that contemplated by numbers I and IV of my letter, with the omission of the idea of Presidential responsibility. There is also a serious practical difficulty resulting from the lack of quick communication between Liberia and the United States. Every reasonable facility should be afforded the President to enable him to keep the institution in operation. The negotiations necessary under this article would seriously hamper the work. The local Board would scarcely desire to give *carte blanche* in the sense of agreeing to confirm any and every appointment, and on the other hand few persons could be induced to come to Liberia while their engagement is doubtful, or to lose time in the United States during the interval necessary to secure the approval of the local Board. By allowing the President to appoint for one year, professors who would then be subject to election by the Liberian Board, no time would be lost and the election could be made much more intelligently than is possible under the present conditions, which are practically the same as those of your paper.

It is also to be considered that with the power of appointment so entirely in the hands of the foreign Boards, the appointment of residents of Liberia would not be facilitated. That such persons should occupy the positions whenever practicable is most desirable. The foreign Boards are not anxious to interfere in matters which may be settled advantageously in Liberia, and could sufficiently protect their interests by care in the selection of the President, if the power of nomination were in his hands.

3. No reason for objection is evident.

4. It will be unfortunate if benefactions are not distributed with reference to the ability to profit by them. The system of competitive examinations is well-nigh universal in such cases, especially in State institutions, both in Europe and America, and even in China. The method



has the further advantage of eliminating the personal element and avoiding petty jealousies. It would, however, be highly desirable for the Executive Committee to designate candidates for such examinations, to insure their worthiness to receive the benefactions.

5. The Preparatory Department is, owing to the scarcity of secondary schools in the Republic, a very important part of the College and it should stand in the most intimate relations with the Collegiate Department. The Principal should be an educator of experience and ability, and have a seat in the Faculty. This would make it desirable that he be appointed in the same way as the Professors of the College.

6. Seems not materially different from II of my letter.

7. Entirely appropriate.

8. This would, it seems to me, require an amendment of the charter, for power of removal is now vested in the President of the Republic, in the capacity of visitor of the institution. In cases of flagrant misdoing extreme measures ought most certainly to be employed; on the other hand it is exceedingly unwise to allow differences between officers of an institution of learning to become matters of public process. In the case of inefficient or undesirable instructors, sections IV and V of my letter provide protection against the election of such, and a means of comparatively early relief in case the expectations drawn from the work of the first year are not realized. A college faculty, above all other bodies of men, ought to be above suspicion. If the appointments to fill vacancies are to be left to the Foreign Boards a reasonable time for action might be stated, after the expiration of which the Executive Committee would be competent.

9. My experience leads me to believe that quarterly reports would be more desirable, both to the Principal and the Committee, but if monthly reports are preferred, there is no good reason why they should not be furnished.

Finally, I would express the hope that in the consideration of this and my former letter it be understood that there is no wish to insist upon any particular form of statement or suggestions, my anxiety being entirely along the line of the *practical* success of the College, by means of any sort consistent with right and reasonable principles of action.

It had become evident that the President, the Faculty, the Committee and the Trustees were either unable or unwilling to effect a change, and there seemed no escape from the conclusion indicated in the Faculty's Statement, "the work of the institution will cease to serve any useful purpose." This being the case, further expenditure of time and effort appeared unjustifiable and likely to delay the needed change for the better. Hence we attempted nothing in the way of instruction at the College, and gave our attention to scientific work and the experimental farm. The exercises of the College were nominally continued, but under worse and worse conditions, so that some of the more prominent and progressive citizens assured me that only patience is needed to see an early end of the present regime. The lack of anything in the way of order, discipline, or even decency at the College is more than ever a matter of common knowledge. The state

appropriation for the support of beneficiary students is so badly managed that young men frequently find themselves in a destitute and even starving condition among strangers whose charity they have in some cases been compelled to solicit. In one such instance, I went with the young man to the Secretary of the Treasury, through whose department the appropriations are drawn. The quarterly advance was then several days overdue, but the Treasury Department could pay the money only on the order of the college authorities, which had not been forthcoming. That the student might not longer go hungry or beg, the Secretary gave him a few dollars which should be repaid when the allowance was drawn. The loan had to be repeated, and the student finally became completely discouraged and went home without repaying the money. Some of the young men have absolutely nothing when they come to college and rely entirely on the promise of support from the state appropriation, which, through the depletion of the treasury and the careless and wasteful management of the college authorities, is frequently unavailable or insufficient. Other students who share this slender support belong to families with more or less property, and are able to afford attendance by native servants and other harmful expenditures. For most of the students only the poorest food is procurable, and that in insufficient quantities. The rooms are desolate and the accommodations wretched in the extreme. It is not wonderful that the students become utterly discouraged when this represents their only opportunity of an education.

It can hardly appear less than axiomatic to those acquainted with Liberia to say that any school neglects one of the most important agencies of improvement when it fails to put its students under the best possible conditions of orderly life and habits of study. This need is the greater from the fact that the home life can rarely supply the elements of character and training to be reasonably expected in America. Indeed, it is civilization in the best sense, which must be taught and *practiced* if education is to mean improvement and not expert rascality. Civilization will never be learned, however, by a few hours of formal instruction five days in the week, while the remainder of the time is spent in barbarism, or what is worse, a degraded civilization.

Since we left Liberia, in April of the present year, I have been informed from reliable sources that President Cheeseman has closed the college and refused further payment of the government appropriations, on the ground that the students are left without oversight. This shows that the justice of the faculty's contention is recognized in Liberia, and indicates that the Government is probably ready to take the initiative or at least to co-operate in a movement to re-organize the college, which is now in order. Nothing short of a complete revision of the charter and laws of the institution will suffice as a basis of the needed improvement. The work should be so thorough as to completely remove many of the time-worn causes of misunderstanding, and to minimize the time-consuming negotiations which under the present rules and management would discourage reforms and make progress impossible.

To attempt to decide which parties or boards have been right and which wrong in the ineffectual attempts at the management of Liberia College, would be idle. It is very plain, however, that there has been much misunderstanding on all sides, and that this will continue until the occasion is removed. At the same time it is important that the Liberian Board be informed of the present attitude of the American Societies, and specific recommendations would be the best form in which the desired changes could be proposed, especially since the Liberian Board has taken the ground that reforms are not to be inaugurated without changes in the charter.

Without some common ground of understanding and confidence co-operation will in the future as in the past, be impossible.

It needs no explanation to show that no institution of learning can be managed efficiently unless the faculty is in possession of power sufficient to enforce its regulations. Yet it is under just such difficulties that the work of Liberia College has thus far been conducted. In the United States a school in which power sufficient for legitimate discipline does not exist would not be expected to operate successfully a single week, yet in Liberia such an arrangement has existed at least 30 years. Here we have another of the almost numberless mistakes that have stood in the way of progress of all kinds in Liberia. That higher education has not been fairly tried in Liberia is plain, and the case is the same with

primary education, missionary work, and colonization. To charge these failures entirely to the climate or people of Liberia is manifestly unjust. Work attempted with such poor organization and inefficient management would not be expected to succeed in any civilized country, and in the presence of the difficulties incident to such attempts in Africa the best organization and management are imperative. The plans for missionary and educational work have in most cases been drawn in Liberia by persons without adequate acquaintance with the work or the conditions.

## THE PRACTICABILITY OF COLONIZATION.

The value of philanthropic efforts in Liberia depends, at least from the standpoint of the colonization societies, almost entirely on the question whether colonization can still appear as a practical solution of the negro question in the United States. That a "question" still exists there can be no doubt, and that colonization is not a dead issue is evidenced by the recent activity among the negroes, even in the present year. Yet there are few social theories generally supposed to be as impracticable as African colonization. The opinion of the well-informed public interested in social questions is that the scheme is a complete failure which may as well be left out of consideration in the future. This opinion exists in spite of the fact that nearly all the more careful students of the race question have offered the same solution—colonization. Neglecting various fanciful propositions, the more serious and thoughtful plans expected to dispose of the race question in the United States have been three in number: Colonization, Emancipation and Education. Colonization came first historically, but involving enormous practical difficulties, and being opposed both by the slave-holders and the Abolitionists, it was never fairly tried, while emancipation and education are demonstrated failures, for whatever success we may account to them on grounds of humanity, they have thus far not only not disposed of the race question, but are acknowledged by both black and white to have greatly intensified it.

The supposed impracticability of colonization in Liberia has led to the suggestion of many other places as more suitable for emigrants from the United States. However, all attempts elsewhere have failed even more signally than in Liberia, because the conditions were less favorable or the management worse, usually for both reasons. Attempt at settlements in territories under European governments (with the possible exception of the English) are ill-advised. It is sometimes supposed that the European nations cherish no prejudices, and that negroes are at no disadvantages in dealing with any people except Americans. Nothing could be farther from the fact. In Europe negroes are a curiosity and are usually taken about as seriously as kangaroos. The idea that they are possessed of human characteristics and capabilities presents



itself very tardily. Many times I have been asked by educated Germans whether negroes possess capacity for learning, and whether there *are really* educated negroes!

Last year I listened to a very animated discussion by a company of Germans on the question whether negroes possess mental powers capable of successful cultivation. The fact is that Europeans have had so little contact with negroes that they have never learned to know them as individuals, and that they judge the whole race by the accounts of savages in anthropological works and comic newspapers. In the European colonies of the African coast (again with the exception of the English) the negro is a cipher considered only as he may be made to give value to white significant figures. Not infrequently sons of native chiefs are sent to Europe to be "educated," but in reality are taken in lieu of host-



*Government Square, Monrovia; the Roberts Monument at the Right.*

ages, to assist in maintaining European control of their tribes. The education to which they are subjected in Europe is calculated to completely unfit them for life or good influence in Africa.

Whatever injustices or disabilities the negro may suffer in the United States, the fact remains that only here is he taken seriously or given a hearing, and his political rights and racial prospects are

sure to be less under any other European or American government, more especially if he comes as an emigrant. There are places, no doubt, where negroes from the United States could appear as the equals or superiors of the white inhabitants, but in such cases the whites themselves have fewer political rights or opportunities for progress than the negroes in the South. In all countries settled by the Latin races there exists a degraded class with less promise of improvement and less desire for it than the most backward negroes.

If these considerations are not imaginary, the area to which emigration from the United States is now possible is exceedingly limited. All the accessible parts of the continent of Africa are



*Krootown, Looking Toward the Sea.*

claimed by different European nations, and while it might be possible to secure territory for settlements in other parts of Africa, Liberia presents a ready and accessible opening. I have been able to find no ground for doubting the opinion expressed in former reports, that the natural advantages of Liberia are greater

than those of any part of the west coast north of Angola. Add to this the fact that a beginning has been made and a certain amount of experience accumulated, and it is plain that, whatever be the future of colonization, Liberia is the most favorable place for giving it a careful trial.

In addition to the sufficiently numerous difficulties connected with the planting of a new civilization, the cause of colonization has been hindered by irrelevant theories which have been supposed to be an essential part of the ideas of those who believe in colonization. Thus it is often objected that the negro will not,



*Coffee-Farms at Arthington.*

left to himself, develop and maintain a civilization. This is, to say the least, a question, but if a negative answer were warranted it would have no bearing on colonization. It is quite idle to suppose that there will be in Liberia or elsewhere racial isolation. Recent events in the far East, as well as all the tendencies of modern history show that any such hope, even if wise, would be vain. For negroes to go to Liberia to escape contact with whites would be wrong in theory as well as practically foolish, for the isolation could in no way be insured. Every interest of the negro race demands contact with the white, the more the better, but

contact under circumstances favorable to the negro. Liberia should no longer be considered as a slave-settlement. It is an opportunity for the negro race, to be improved by its most advanced members, the negroes of the United States. If the educational grants of the Southern States are to be refused him, he

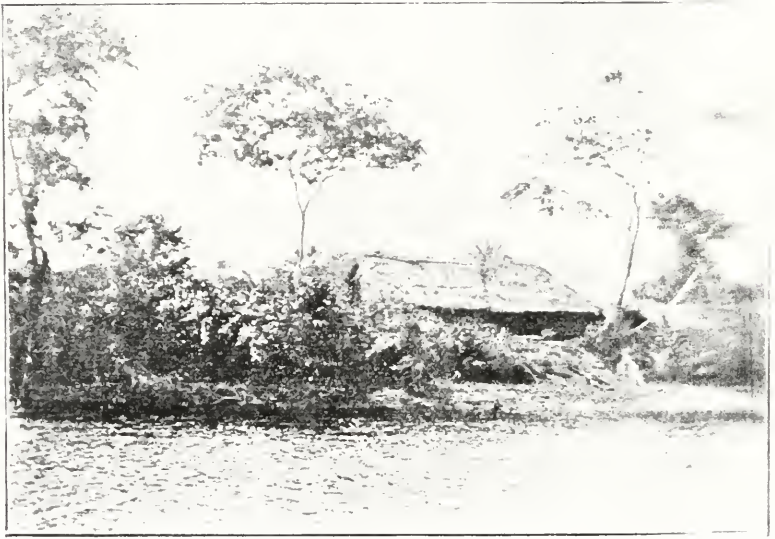


*Woman Beating Dum-Boy.*

has still the option of going to Liberia, planting coffee, and hiring the best white teachers to educate his children, whenever he cares to pay for them. This mischievous idea of race seclusion has been one of the chief hinderances to colonization for the past fifty years. No progressive race or people now depends for progress entirely on its own efforts; the ability to receive and imitate is quite as large an element as invention in our



present civilization. That the negro is deficient in intelligence, observation in Africa leads me to doubt, but his power of imitation are generally admitted. That he first imitates is external and trivial is naturally and logically the first step in the process of acquiring a civilization. As soon as he begins to understand the basal principles of Christianity and modern progress and to take himself seriously as a man, he has no longer a place in our system. He then realizes his anomalous position and the impossibility of a normal human experience under our



*St. Paul's River, near Clay Ashland.*

ditions. I have canvassed this matter carefully, and am convinced that the negro of finer feelings and real manliness has no comfortable position with us. If he has finer feelings they are to be outraged; if he has manliness it will be a disadvantage almost any avenue of activity open to negroes. There is an altitude of philosophic calm above such obstacles, reached by occasional individuals of both races, but this does not alter the general fact that the further a negro progresses the more comfortable does his position become. This is said with full recognition of the fact that there exists in the United States the oppor-

of great material and intellectual progress, to which the wiser leaders of the negro race are now directing the attention of their brethren. The assault on the walls of social prejudice is seen to be fruitless. Mr. Washington advises his people to avoid this issue and improve their undoubted privileges. The Rev. Mr. Bowen, in his recent speech at Atlanta is quoted as saying :

"Please God, the negro will have sense enough to stay in this country and contribute to the correct solution of the race question, until this Nation shall become in truth homogeneous in sentiment, though heterogeneous in blood. There is no such thing as perfect equality of individuals or race. This is the figment clung to by minds that are woefully deficient in rudimentary training. The negro must be a worker. All sensible negroes agree to that. He does not shirk from work. All he asks is an equality of opportunity. It is on record for us that in all of the social upheavals between capital and labor the negro has never been found with the firebrand in hand."

That there will be homogeneous sentiment on questions of law and morality is a desire cherished by all friends of the race in America or Africa, but if Mr. Bowen means that the nation is to become so homogeneous, that the negro will be no longer at a disadvantage in the struggle for life and progress, he hopes against all the tendencies yet manifested. Equal opportunities and homogeneous sentiments have never existed without community of blood. As the population of the United States increases there is less and less tolerance of competition from nations or races with which ties of blood are not recognized. As the author of an appeal to Pharaoh puts it :

"And now at the last, standing on the grave of the Red Man, and shutting the western gate of the Republic, without ceremony, in the face of the Yellow Man, we turn and proclaim anew to ourselves and to the world that our destiny and the destiny of the Black Man is one ! It is very strange."

Recent students of the attitudes of the races and the prospects of the negro abound in such statements as the following :

"For every law enacted for his political protection will be ignored and defied, and the more he knows, and the more capable he becomes, the less will he be tolerated by the great brute labor-league interest of the north, that everywhere elbows him into the gutter ; and the solid column, not of poor white trash, but of well-enough meaning but narrow-minded Southern people who are not yet half convinced that he has the rights of American Citizenship."

"In this intensely Republican city of Philadelphia the colored man is not only severely ostracised socially, but he is as severely ostracised in all channels of industry. The colored workingman can obtain employment here only as a menial. The mechanical trades are resolutely closed against him by the very fellow-workmen who march under flags demanding his fullest rights, and he is kicked and cuffed to the rear to carry the hod, while only the white man can lay the bricks and stone."



"The white posts of the Grand Army of Republic in the States of Mississippi and Louisiana have decided to surrender their charters and dissolve, rather than recognize the negro posts on terms of equality, as was ordered by the Grand Encampment at its last annual meeting."

"Those receiving higher educations find themselves crowded out by more intelligent white competitors."

"The obvious fact is that the races have moved apart in the course of one generation, and that the gap widens yearly. The Southern white man never contemplates the possibility of closer relations. The negro entertains little or no hope of closer relations. There is peace between them so long as the negro "knows his place" and keeps his place, and no longer. The slightest assertion of equality provokes a conflict in some form, and the Negro is never the victor."

Notwithstanding the deplorable state which such facts indicate, we need not close our eyes to the progress of the negroes of the United States as some advocates of colonization have done, but rather welcome it as evidence of what may be hoped for the race under conditions which shall draw forth all its enthusiasm and warrant its utmost effort. Moreover, to set forth reasons why the negro should emigrate is largely a gratuitous labor. The great fact is that he desires to go. Not the whole race, indeed; perhaps not a large part of it, but more people than all the contemplated agencies of colonization could deal with in the next half-century are ready and anxious to return to their fatherland. There need be no talk of disturbing the labor supply of the South, or of depopulating any section of country. It is possible, however, to relieve the congestion and misery of many districts in which race disturbances have reached an acute stage, and it is feasible to lay open to manly and energetic negroes who do not feel at home here a field of activity beyond the Atlantic. When this has been done emigration may be accelerated, for there will then be an established civilization in Africa capable of absorbing and providing for newcomers. That such a movement would have a most beneficial effect on the situation in the United States can scarcely be doubted. With a rational and worthy prospect for the race once recognized, we might expect an increase of ambition and enthusiasm impossible while its only hope is to follow in the wake of a civilization not its own.

We need no longer doubt that the continent of Africa has a future of progress and civilization near at hand. To have an honorable part in this is the privilege of every negro. Here is a worthy ambition which will not be seriously impeded by any dis-

qualifications of race or birth; on the contrary the negro will there have a distinct advantage if he will use it wisely. But he will not be beyond the stimulus of white competition, nor does he desire to be if he is actuated by manly motives. Indeed, the white competition is already in the field, not in Liberia, it is true, but on both sides of it and in all the rest of Africa. The negroes of America have to-day the ability, the numbers, and the capital to make Liberia the most successful and advanced colony in Tropical Africa, if they would use their powers wisely. This undertaking is, however, beyond the resources of individuals, and nobody can



*Funeral at Krootown.*

be expected to risk his all in an experiment which has so often proved a disastrous failure. Confidence in Liberia must be created by *bona fide* progress in Liberia, to the extent that an emigrant to that country can go out with reasonable prospects of improving his condition. That this is not the case now must be admitted. The difficulties to be overcome are too great for the average individual energy and resources. Is it possible to so manage the work of colonization as to put a reasonable hope of success within the reach of the average man? This is the key to the whole difficulty.

That it has not been applied in the past may be inferred from some of the facts of the history of the movement.

Manifestly, in making a beginning, it would have been wise to select carefully those best suited for pioneer service, and who have the intelligence necessary to adapt themselves to new conditions. We have too often supposed, however, Africa being the negro's "home," that all he needed was to be put down on the golden sands, and he would know at once to which tree to run for the bread, to which for the



*Harbor and Bar from the Fort; Krootown at the Left*

butter, and so on through the whole menu. Intelligent negroes have heard of the disasters incident to this shallow notion and have been unwilling to go out of the frying-pan into the fire. The result has been that for many years few but the most ignorant and listless emigrants have been sent out—those who have been too ignorant to read the accounts of the disasters which attended their predecessors. They have reached Liberia with no resources, have been located up some dismal tidal creek, without means of communication, medical attendance, or proper food, and worst of

all, with no knowledge of the country in which they found themselves, for it seems not unnecessary to state that the negro whose ancestors have lived for several generations in America is as completely ignorant of Africa as any white man, and much more ignorant than white men with the advantages of reading. To begin life in a new country is one of the most difficult tasks in human experience, and the fact that in Liberia it has so often proved impossible to ignorant emigrants without resources is by no means a demonstration that it is impossible there if undertaken under more favorable conditions and better management. That there is no inherent impossibility involved, is made certain by the numerous individual cases of success among the emigrants of even the last few years. Men who went to Liberia with little or nothing twelve or fifteen years ago, have now flourishing coffee farms which yield them a comfortable income. These cases of prosperity are, however, altogether too rare to make the situation encouraging as a whole. I have known emigrants with energy and industrious habits to fail utterly in spite of persistent effort. Of course the great majority give up without a fair trial, and many never go into the country at all, but find sufficient discouragement awaiting them when they land at Monrovia. Indeed, instances are not wanting of emigrants who took fright on the outward voyage and never went ashore at Monrovia, but returned by the same ship.

One of the largest factors of failure is ignorance. Not merely the proverbial ignorance of the Southern negroes, but the ignorance which is always carried by strangers into a new land. No amount of reading accounts of the country will be sufficient to obviate this difficulty. Practical experience is almost universally necessary. Intelligent men who have given Liberia their interest for years have still no adequate realization of the situation, either as to its advantages or its discouragements. After nearly a century of experience the missionary societies continue to send to Africa men and women in no way adapted to the climate or the work.

The custom of the past has been to undertake to furnish emigrants with rations for the first six months. A new settlement is usually made for a party of emigrants, and they are then left to their own devices: being entirely ignorant

how to proceed under the novel conditions, they conclude that nothing is possible. Those who have brought money with them take passage for the United States. At the end of six months the rations of those who remain are withdrawn, and they are left to starve. I have known emigrants who have lost two or three years in blunders and semi-starvation before they found out how to plant their farms properly. It is safe to say that every party of emigrants wastes enough time and energy during the first year or two to raise, under proper direction, enough of the food plants of the country to supply three times as many people. That we are not dealing with a racial or peculiar deficiency in this failure of most colonists to make a fortunate beginning may be seen from the uniform failure of the so-called self-supporting missions. The plan under which this departure was taken was reasonable and apparently practicable, like colonization but it has never been given a proper trial. The missionaries have seldom been able to reach self-support, even for short seasons, and the whole enterprise is thus far entirely barren of permanent results, nor does the present condition of the work give better promise for the future. No doubt much incidental good has been done, but the movement has in no way fulfilled the expectations of its friends, notwithstanding a large sacrifice of money, labor and lives. Many of the missionaries have been ignorant and inefficient, but others have shown zeal and energy which if used in connection with a properly administered enterprise would without doubt have made visible improvement in the field, and served as a basis for future expansion.

Although the African climate has long had a reputation for deadliness, it is many years since emigrants have had the advantage of medical attendance, indeed, not since the discovery of many of the remedies most useful in the treatment of tropical diseases. The idea that negroes do not suffer from the change of climate has been largely abandoned, and yet for years past emigrants have been placed where they were entirely out of reach of medical attendance at the time they needed it most. The remedies supposed to be sent with the rations were in many cases not delivered, and there was seldom anybody at hand who knew how to use them. It would be difficult to imagine a worse state than that in which many of the emigrants to Liberia have found them-

selves. Without knowledge of the country, without food, sick unto death but without medicine or care, it is no wonder that they give rein to the imagination in describing the horrors of the place.

Half a century of history should be enough to demonstrate the futility of such mismanagement. To advise or in any way assist in the emigration of any individual to Liberia is to assume a responsibility which can hardly be discharged except by personal knowledge that suitable provision has been made for his reception there, and that he will have a fair chance to try his fortune in the new country. To send emigrants as hundreds have been sent in the last two decades is criminal carelessness on a large scale. The matter



*Providence Island, Innes Harbor, Monrovia.*

is too serious to be delegated to agents or committees. The man who takes the responsibility of sending his fellows into peril and hardship without taking every possible measure toward safety and comfort is certainly lacking in humanity, and his only excuse is ignorance of facts which it is his first duty to learn. In other words, no man can on his own account honorably advise negroes to emigrate to Liberia who has not only visited Liberia, but lived there, and who is in position to know without peradventure that emigrants shall have a living chance when they arrive. For nearly



a century men have been preaching colonization who dare not go to Liberia themselves, and who would on no account allow a relative or friend to go if they could prevent. Some would, no doubt, justify themselves on the ground that they have supposed that negroes are not affected by the climate, the fundamental oversight mentioned above. But then, Liberia is 4,000 miles away, and moral obligations, like other things, seldom remain practical at that distance. This remoteness is the initial difficulty from which all the hinderances and discouragements have logically followed. Modern civilization is ready to contribute to the work, and can make even the distance less; the experience of the past may warn us from mistakes and failures, if we will but recognize the import of the facts.

Liberia is fertile and well-drained, and in all probability as salubrious as any unimproved region of low elevation inside the tropics. The whole country is undulating, hilly or mountainous, the proportion of level land being very small. The swamps are confined to a very narrow fringe along the coast. In this coast belt all the settlements have been located, for the rivers are not navigable for long distances and on land everything must be carried on the backs of men. Without the introduction of an improved means of land transportation it is practically impossible to make settlements in the interior. The configuration of the country is such that the building of roads, or even of railroads would not be attended with unusual difficulty. Beasts of burden, oxen and horses, will thrive if properly cared for, and could be utilized if roads and bridges were in existence.

Tropical plants of all kinds can be successfully cultivated, but the conditions over nearly the whole country are favorable to coffee-raising, and there is apparently no limit to the extension of this industry. In short, the natural advantages in Liberia are undoubtedly superior to those of other parts of the coast which the European nations feel warranted in occupying and improving. The colonization of American negroes in Liberia has been impeded by other than natural difficulties, and the history of the movement contains many facts calculated to hinder the work. Such are:

1. Emigrants have almost invariably gone out under a grave misapprehension of the difficulties of the undertaking on which they

were about to enter. All must do pioneer work, bear hardship and privation, and none can hope to succeed without energy and perseverance.

2. From the above it may be inferred that a careful selection of emigrants is necessary for penetrating the interior and opening new settlements. Yet until recently the policy of sending unqualified applicants was followed, with the result that many emigrants went out whose only desire in going was to find a land where work would be unnecessary. Others have gone out with the Southern idea that labor is degrading and have striven to place themselves and their children above the need of exertion, with the result that progress has stopped with the first generation.

3. New emigrants have frequently been segregated in communities remote from their neighbors and have had no opportunity to become acquainted with methods of agriculture entirely unknown to them. They thus waste much time and suffer needless privation.

4. On arrival they are entirely unacquainted with the country or people, especially the natives. They frequently accumulate experience which involves the loss of all they take with them, thus reducing to beggary even the more provident.

5. At some seasons of the year it is difficult to raise a supply of food in six months, and the crops sometimes fail as in other countries, especially under inexperienced cultivation. Thus emigrants are frequently left to starve or beg at the end of six months, even if the rations are properly provided for that length of time, which has seldom been the case.

6. The diseases incident to the climate are especially severe with new comers and those insufficiently nourished. Hence the loss of money or the want of proper food may be attended by fatal results, so that emigrants should have constant and careful oversight and adequate medical attendance during at least the first six months in Liberia. With proper precautions and prompt treatment African fever is seldom serious and rarely, if ever, fatal. If neglected it is usually severe, and not uncommonly fatal.

7. The serving of free rations, although necessary under the past system, has had a most pernicious tendency toward demoralization. The more improvident take no measures toward self-support until the rations are withdrawn. Idleness, listlessness,

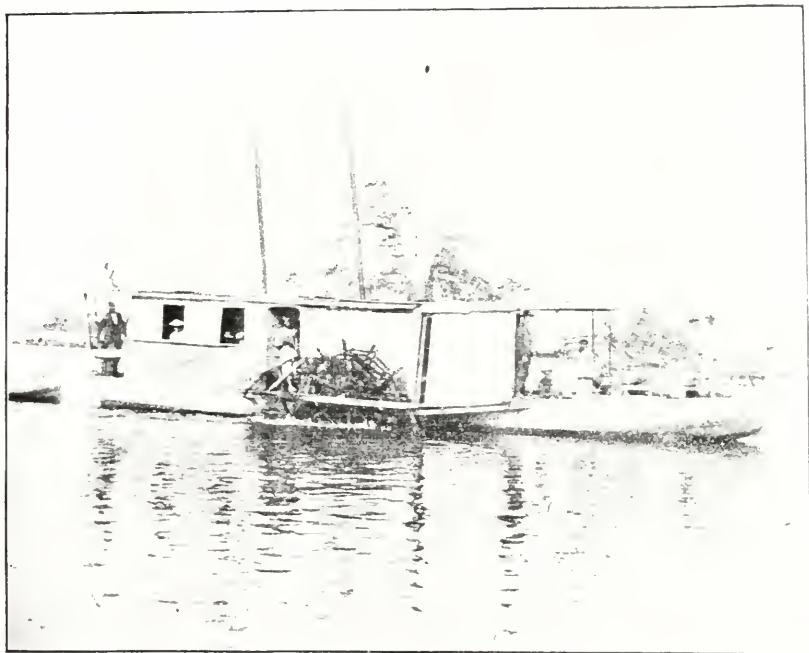
and disappointment during the time of the acclimating fever invites more severe attacks and increases the mortality. Hence it is eminently desirable that emigrants should be actively employed immediately on landing.

8. For many years past coffee has been the only staple crop readily convertible into money in Liberia. For other agricultural products there is as yet little or no market. The result is that for several years after arrival, emigrants are able to produce only the necessities of life, all progress in education or refinement being out of the question. Employment is seldom to be found, and the settler and his family must exist as best they may until the coffee begins to bear, when a regular income is assured. The effect, though, of these four or five years of poverty and privation is seldom overcome; it means deterioration, the loss of enthusiasm and even of the desire for progress, a most unfortunate beginning.

9. The poverty and disorganization of new settlements frequently results in a lack of school facilities, while for religious instruction the people are left to the mercies of illiterate preachers common in parties of emigrants. Thus emigrants find at once another cause of discouragement, being apparently without the prospect of any agencies of education or improvement.

Such a catalogue of obstacles need not dishearten, for it is in the face of such difficulties that Liberia has been founded and maintained. In the early history of the colony, however, the emigrants were superior in energy and determination to the average of those sent in recent years. The early emigrations were also more efficiently managed, and were not infrequently guided in Liberia by those who had organized their expeditions in this country. It is not claimed that a man may not emigrate to Liberia and succeed in establishing himself in the course of a few years as the owner of a coffee-farm yielding a comfortable income. The fact is that cases of such success are now so rare that the general outlook is not encouraging, and that no expansion could have been expected under the past policy. The possibility of the future lies in the fact that the hinderances are in a considerable degree incidental to a method of procedure which has neglected patent needs and has failed to appreciate the responsibility assumed in sending emigrants into a life involving privation and danger. The task of

establishing in tropical Africa a Christian civilization is sufficiently difficult to render most unwise the neglect of anything likely to contribute to success. Yet the cause has suffered through the years from the failure to remove the obstacles enumerated above. What should be done is plain, for in each case the difficulty suggests the remedy. Thus, to prevent, as far as possible, emigrants going to Liberia under a misapprehension, the *facts* need to be published more widely among the negroes of the United States.



*The "Sarah Ann."*

Until the number of civilized people in Liberia has been largely increased, and especially until settlements have been thoroughly established in the interior and communication opened with the coast, it is highly important that emigrants be very carefully selected by the person under whose care and guidance they are to remain for at least the first six months. This is the only just arrangement, for the emigrants should know with whom they have to deal before leaving their homes, and the conductor of the

party should satisfy himself that he has the right kind of men to undertake a difficult work.

Emigrants should be enlisted under an agreement to remain for six months after landing in Liberia under the direction of their conductor, and to work at a specified price per day for that period. On arrival in Liberia emigrants should be taken at once to an established station or farm where preparations have been made to receive them. They should have comfortable shelter, and an adequate supply of good food should be at hand for sale at cost prices. At the station should reside a competent physician. There should also be a well-equipped school and a building for church services and public meetings. Without interfering in denominational preferences it should be arranged that emigrants have the ministrations of those likely to give them reasonable ideas of their duties in their new life, and to promote industry and earnestness. All adults should be employed according to contract, and the children should be regularly sent to school. At the end of six months a practical knowledge of the new conditions will be gained. The women will have learned to prepare the foods of the country, the men will know how to grow them, and all will be more ready to take up advantageously the work of making permanent homes and successful farms in Liberia. There will have been time to gain a considerable knowledge of the country and people, and time to select locations for farms according to individual taste and preference. This will greatly conduce to subsequent contentedness.

Such a nucleus would soon be the centre of a considerable civilized settlement, for the receiving stations ought to be located where the conditions are favorable for expansion. Thus the difficulties which have resulted in the past from the isolation of settlements on dismal tidal creeks would not arise, and an era of steady progress might be expected.

The difficulty of the proposed plan exists in the necessity of efficient management, but if this cannot be supplied we have a first class reason why further colonization ought not to be attempted. On the other hand, I believe that the men exist who are able to direct such a work, and that there are would-be colonists able to carry it out. The interest of neither class has been enlisted because the former policy has proved unpractical and dangerous. Indeed, it can be justly said that colonization has



*Path near Caldwell, a Typical Liberian Scene.*

never been fairly tried, and that the attempts that have been made have succeeded as far as could have been reasonably hoped. It has always been expected that African colonization would be a costly undertaking, but this plan involves a large saving, for each party of emigrants would make an important contribution to the success of those coming after, both in raising supplies of food and in executing public improvements, such as roads and bridges. The first six months in Liberia, instead of being as in the past a season of demoralization, would become a practical school, well calculated to render the emigrant a successful colonist.

In the hope of such a departure a site for a settlement has been sought, and the vicinity of Mt. Coffee presents an excellent open-



ing. The region is very sparsely inhabited, though the natural advantages are of the best. The distance from Monrovia is about 30 miles, 20 of which may be travelled by water. For the remaining distance a good road should be constructed, at a cost of about \$4,000. The grant of 1,000 acres for an experimental farm has already been secured, as stated in the second report. Several thousand coffee trees have been set out, and we are ready to undertake the care of horses and cattle, the use of a large island in the river, suitable for grazing having been added to the grant by President Cheeseman. Several horses should be secured from the interior, and the expense may prove considerable. Cattle may be bought in the settlements but are held at a high figure, and are also of a small breed, so that it would be wise to secure cattle as well as horses from the interior. At least 1,000 dollars should be available for the purchase of cattle and horses. If in addition we had a few (ten) efficient emigrants a beginning could be made and an increasing number accommodated every six months.

Could there be a reasonable hope of renewed activity in colonization and consequent progress in Liberia, there would be justification for the initiation of many philanthropic and financial undertakings which would greatly accelerate advance, but unless there can be practical success in the fundamental business of colonization there is little encouragement for other ventures.



